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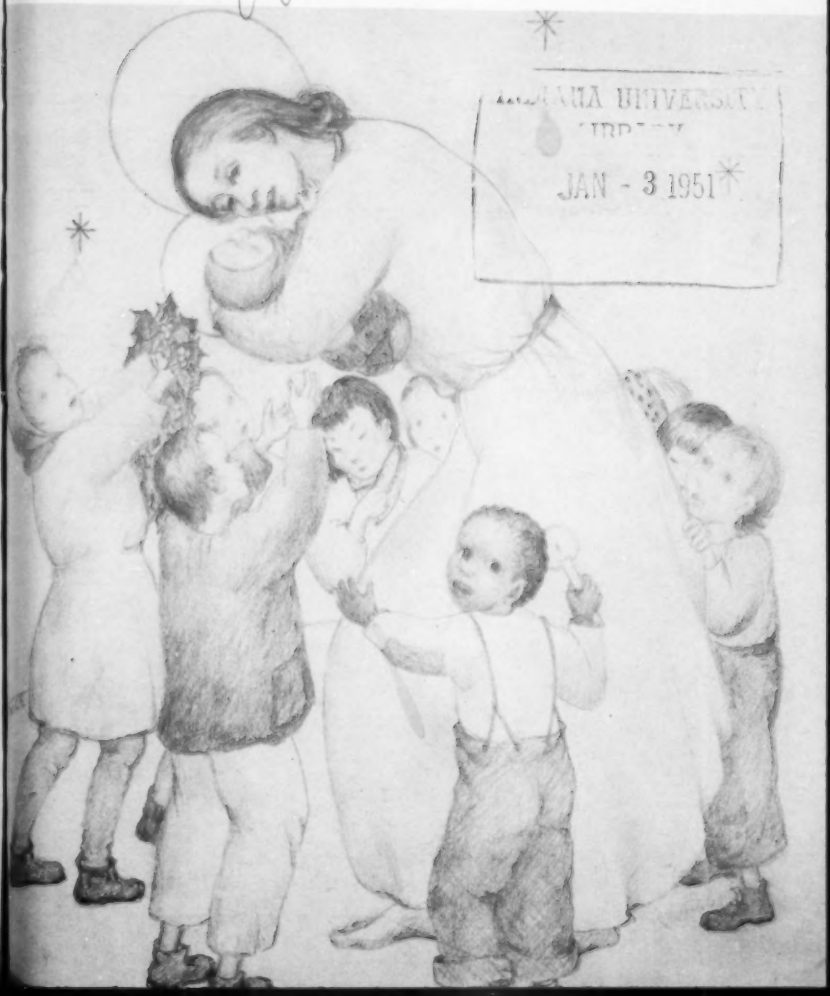

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A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

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IN THIS ISSUE

December, 1950

COVER
"Peace on Earth"—By Mrs. Guy Emerson
THE AMAZING MR. TAFT—*by Henry Lee Moon* 685
HOME HUNTING IN SYRACUSE—*by Wendell J. Roye* 693
BLACK PATHFINDER OF THE DESERTS—*by Weldon F. Heald* 703
INCIDENT AT OBERLIN—*by Melissa Mather* 712
EDITORIALS 714

DEPARTMENTS

GOOD NEWS 700
YOUR DOLLAR'S WORTH 710
NAACP BATTLEFRONT 716
BRANCH NEWS 721
COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS 730
BOOK REVIEWS 740
LEGAL DIRECTORY 744

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■ Senator Robert Taft's senatorial record is one of contradictions and deceptions

The Amazing Mr. Taft

By Henry Lee Moon

ROBERT ALPHONSO TAFT's resounding victory in the November election firmly established his right to the sobriquet "Mr. Republican" as the triumphant symbol of resurgent conservatism. Motivated by diverse interests, the voters of Ohio returned him to the Senate for a third term with a margin of 430,900 over his Democratic opponent, Joseph T. Ferguson.

Although Senator Taft's re-election was generally anticipated, his huge vote of 1,642,550 far exceeded expectations, particularly in view of the narrow margin of 17,000 by which he won the 1944 election. Moreover, he faced more intense and better financed opposition in 1950 than in his earlier elections. His own strenuous year-long campaign, however, was more than adequately financed.

To Mr. Taft, the election was a repudiation of the Truman administration and of the leaders of organized labor. The people, he said, "have rejected President Truman's program for imposing a socialistic-planned economy on the American people and expressed their lack of confidence in foreign policy and the State Department."

To the Senator's fellow Cincinnatian, Jack Kroll, director of the CIO Political Action Committee, who spearheaded the joint labor opposition, the election returns simply expressed "a feeling of insecurity and uncertainty on the part of the American people resulting from the complex situation in which we are now engaged as a result of Communist aggression, and threatened aggression elsewhere in the world."

Despite Mr. Taft's declaration that he would not again seek the Republican nomination for the presidency, his election projects him into the forefront of G.O.P. presidential possibilities in 1952.

In light of the Ohioan's negative record, his sweeping victory is amazing. True, he enjoys an unrivaled and seldom challenged reputation for political probity and intellectual capacity. "Even his enemies," writes Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., "respect his intellectual honesty and his reasoning powers, if not his conclusions." These alleged qualities of the Republican leader have evoked fulsome praise from the press, radio

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HENRY LEE MOON *is the NAACP director of public relations.*

commentators, and his fellow politicians.

Senator Taft's record, however, affords scant foundation for his unique eminence. His immense prestige stems from nothing positive in his political career and is, indeed, based upon a myth diligently cultivated by his supporters and widely accepted by those who confuse bluntness with honesty and mastery of minutiae with mentality. Certainly nothing in his record justifies his reputation for singular honesty and superior intellect.

CORRUPT BEGINNINGS

The record began with Taft's entrance into politics as a protege of the corrupt Cox-Hynicka machine which, Lincoln Steffens charged, gave Cincinnati "the worst" government of any city in the United States. While the public is never permitted to forget that Harry S. Truman got his start under sponsorship of the notorious Pendergast machine of Kansas City, Taft's political background is rarely mentioned.

Cox, according to Steffens, "was distinguished in his corrupt city as an honest politician; if there was boodle to divide, Cox divided it 'on the square' . . ." The stench of the machine became so obnoxious that leading Republicans, including Taft's brother Charles, revolted in disgust and launched a reform movement known as the Charter group. But not Honest Bob Taft. He pinched his nose and stuck with the machine. "My theory," he explained, "was to work within the organization."

George B. Cox and Rud Hynicka have passed to their reward, and the machine they operated may have undergone a surface fumigation under the sustained attack of the Charterites, to whom Taft has lent no public support. But the politicians of the Cincinnati machine are not the only ones of questionable political virtue to whom Taft has looked for support. "The most reliable part of his strength [as a candidate for the presidency] rests in his control over the southern delegates [to the National Republican Convention] who can help nominate the Republican candidate even if they practically never help elect him," Schlesinger points out.

These Dixie zombies, Mr. Taft keeps safely in his vest pocket. When former Republican National Chairman Hugh D. Scott, Jr., blasted six of these phantom GOP leaders, charging that they had sold out to the Democrats for "patronage, power and personal advantage," their Ohio mentor was quick to come to their defense. "The men named by Mr. Scott," he avowed, "are among the most conscientious and able Republicans. They command respect of both Democrats and Republicans in their respective states."

Even more damaging is the support the doughty Ohioan has received from the anti-Negro, anti-Semitic political underworld. With or without his blessing, Mr. Taft became the darling of Gerald L. K. Smith who, in 1942, placed the Senator first on his list of preferred presidential candidates. William Dudley Pelley, George Sylvester Viereck, Gerald B. Winrod and others of that ilk rallied to his support. In turn, he came to their de-

Wide World

"MR. REPUBLICAN," *Senator Robert A. Taft, meets the heavyweight champion of the world, Ezzard Charles (left). Taft (right) defeated his democratic opponent by 430,000 votes. Charles tests the right arm of Senator Taft while Benny Becker, fight promoter, and Al Bechtold, member of the Cincinnati boxing commission, look on.*

fense when they were indicted in 1942 under the Smith Act for subversive conspiracy.

The Taft record is ample, and amazing in that it spawned such a fabulous reputation. The record reveals Senator Taft's utter incapacity to comprehend the forces shaping the world in which we live. It reveals a nineteenth-century mind overburdened with the responsibility of meeting the issues of the mid-twentieth century. It is a record of confusion, of double-talk, of obstruction, of opportunism. In short, it is the record of a politician of very mediocre calibre.

Take Taft's record on the war. Despite Hitler's widely publicized objectives and program, the Ohio senator was utterly unable to comprehend the meaning of Hitlerism. This incomprehension is reflected in his votes on vital issues. He opposed every measure to strengthen Hitler's foes and to prepare this nation for

the inevitable day of reckoning with the satanic forces which Hitler had released. He voted against the selective service bill, against the armed ship bills, against lend lease, against transfer of Axis ships to Britain, against revision of the Neutrality Act, and for restricting the American armed forces to the Western Hemisphere.

Men of commonplace intelligence saw and understood the handwriting on the wall. But not Bright Bob Taft. Addressing the Senate on February 11, 1939, he said: "There has been an effort on the part of the President to divert attention from domestic failure by exaggerating the dangers of a European war." Six months later World War II was a reality.

NO DANGER TO AMERICA

Even after the war in Europe had started, so certain was Taft that this nation could escape involvement that he consistently voted against the necessary measures to prepare the country against such a possible eventuality. As late as February 16, 1941, he told the Cleveland City Club: "It is simply fantastic to suppose there is any danger of attack on the United States by Japan." The "fanstastic" attack came on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.

On November 7, one month before Pearl Harbor, he cast his vote against revision of the Neutrality Act to enable American ships to carry supplies to beleaguered Britain.

Although Hitler was at the peak of his power, having overrun all of western Europe and having penetrated deep into Soviet Russia, the Ohio Senator saw no sign of danger to America. In an address in Columbus, on September 22, 1941, he expressed his optimism: "There is much less danger to this country from Hitler today than there was two years ago; certainly much less than one year ago."

After the war had become a reality, after Pearl Harbor, after Germany and Italy had declared war upon us, Taft's confusion continued. And after he had done everything possible to prevent adequate preparation for the impending conflict, he told the Young Republican Club of Knoxville, Tennessee, on February 12, 1942: "In spite of the fact that the European war has been going on for nearly two years and a half, and we have appropriated and spent billions of dollars, we are at the present moment apparently unprepared to meet any of the immediate military and naval problems which face us at the very threshold of war."

Later he reverted to his old position, defending his role in handicapping defense plans. Speaking to the American Irish Historical Society on May 7, 1942, he said: "I myself voted against measures which tended to make our involvement in war more likely, and I am proud of that record, and would vote exactly the same way again."

DEFEND FORMOSA

The Senator who thought that it was fantastic to attempt to aid Britain and the rest of western Europe in the early days of World War II, has developed a curious yen to defend Formosa against the Chinese Communists. Guardedly, he told the Senate on January 12, 1950:

I did not suggest the occupation of Formosa, nor the sending of any army, nor even the sending of the Navy. Our Navy is there, with bases within a short distance, and its ships are between Formosa and China. Formosa is a hundred miles from the mainland, and there can be no crossing if our Navy makes it clear that ships carrying troops will not be allowed to cross. In fact, probably there would be no such attempt at all if the State Department made it perfectly clear that we do not intend to permit Communist occupation of Formosa.

During a campaign address in Cleveland on September 1, 1950, this convert to intervention added: "I see no reason why we should not give General Chiang Kai-shek military help to keep him from being shoved off Formosa." As an isolationist, Mr. Taft had been against such aid to keep Churchill from being shoved off Britain.

Although he voted against ratification of the North Atlantic Pact on July 12, 1949, allegedly because it was "inextricably linked" with the arms for Europe program and might lead to war with Russia, a few days later, on July 24, he told a New York *Times* reporter:

I favor warning Russia that if they attack western Europe we will be in war . . . I would like to be able to vote for a policy that would commit us to war if Russia attacks western Europe. I am willing to go for that because I believe that the knowledge on the part of Russia that if they attack they will be in war with us will be an effective deterrent to such an attack.

"MR. REPUBLICAN"

With his election to the chairmanship of the Republican Senate Policy Committee in the 80th Congress, Taft became "Mr. Republican" in more than name. He was the architect of the legislative program of that Republican-controlled Congress, the first in sixteen years. On January 3, 1947, three days before President Truman delivered his "State of the Union" message, Senator Taft took to the air to place the Republican program before the people of America. Modestly he conceded that implementation of the program depended upon the Republican majorities in both Houses. But essentially it was his program.

That program, Mr. Taft asserted, included enactment of a new labor bill, elimination of the last vestiges of controls, revision of the minimum wage act, reduction of income tax, and proposals for constitutional amendments to ban the poll tax and to limit the presidency to two four-year terms. And, he went on to explain to his radio audience: "I do feel very strongly that the federal government should assist in putting a floor under absolutely essential services . . . I am particularly interested myself in the fields of housing, medical care and education."

TAFT-HARTLEY BILL

What came of that program? To the distress of organized labor, the Taft-Hartley labor bill was enacted. An income tax reduction bill was passed decreasing the tax of the $2500-a-year worker by $78 and that of a $100,000-a-year business man by $16,660. The resolution to limit presidential terms was approved.

What of the measures to put "a floor under absolutely essential services" in favor of which Mr. Taft expressed himself strongly? Not one

of these measures was passed. The Congress did, however, pass a bill removing 750,000 persons from the Social Security rolls. On August 6, 1948, near the end of the session, Taft voted against his own housing bill which he had sponsored jointly with Senators Wagner and Ellender. That watered down bill, which was finally passed with Taft's support, carried no provision for public housing, slum clearance, or urban redevelopment.

WELFARE LEGISLATION

The Senator was a newcomer to welfare legislation. In his earlier days in the Senate he had opposed federal aid to education and government-sponsored health programs and had sought to cut public housing funds by 50 percent. In the 78th Congress he had appealed to the tribal prejudices of his southern colleagues in a successful effort to kill the federal aid to education bill. Turning to the squirming Dixiecrat legislators in the Senate he said on October 14, 1943:

> It occurs to me that once the Federal government goes into the question of white and colored schools, we shall never stop. We shall go on until we require every state to permit colored and white children to go to the same schools, as we do in Ohio . . . *I think it a subject the Federal government should not begin to legislate.*" (Italics ours)

But that was before he became "Mr. Republican."

As a stalwart advocate of the free enterprise system, Taft consistently opposed price control at whatever cost to the consumer. Competition, he maintains, will keep prices and profits within reason. After having led the fatal onslaught on OPA, he advised distraught housewives complaining about soaring prices that the remedy lay in "eating less and eating less extravagantly." The news story carrying this sage advice was accompanied by a photograph of the opulent Ohioan at the dinner table eating a thick and, apparently, juicy steak.

After battling for crippling amendments, Taft reluctantly voted for the first wartime OPA on January 10, 1942. And again, on June 28, 1945, he voted for extension of the Emergency Price Control Act. Save for votes for an emasculated price control bill, he thereafter consistently worked against and voted against measures to protect consumers from inflated prices and rents.

OPA's harrassed career came to an end in November, 1946, after having been allowed to lapse into a coma during July of that year. Prices went up 8 percent during that month. Following the final expiration of OPA, prices continued to soar. By January, 1948, they were up 17 percent. Yet Taft stuck by his contention "that competition is bound to bring prices down."

"HONEST BOB"

In the early stages of the Senate debate on the Defense Production bill of 1950, he initially indicated a softening of attitude. He told his fellow senators, on August 10, 1950: ". . . I may say that so far as the general power of control and most of the titles are concerned I agree certainly on the general necessity for such controls." And then he proceeded to dismember the bill, item by item, continuing this legislative

surgery day after day until an amputated bill granting limited authority to the President to impose certain price, wage and materials controls was finally passed on August 21.

On Washington's birthday, 1941, Honest Bob Taft rose in the Senate to ask self-righteously " . . . whether all sincerity and honesty have disappeared from American political life. Are promises made to the people by parties and by candidates merely scraps of paper?" Three years later, on May 29, 1944, he projected this question into the international arena and gave his answer: "Since we remain a sovereign nation in full control of our own country and our armed forces, we have power to break our promises."

When, in the Spring of 1950, Senator Joseph R. McCarthy began making his wild charges of Communist infiltration in the State Department, many Republicans were embarrassed by the irresponsibility of the Wisconsin senator's tactic of character assassination. But not the impeccable Bob Taft. He consulted with his Wisconsin colleague and reportedly advised him to keep shooting in the dark in the hope of getting at least one real Communist, regardless of how many innocent victims he felled in the process. McCarthy continued rashly, failing to produce a single indisputable Communist but succeeding in smearing a number of reputable citizens.

SLEEK PAMPHLET

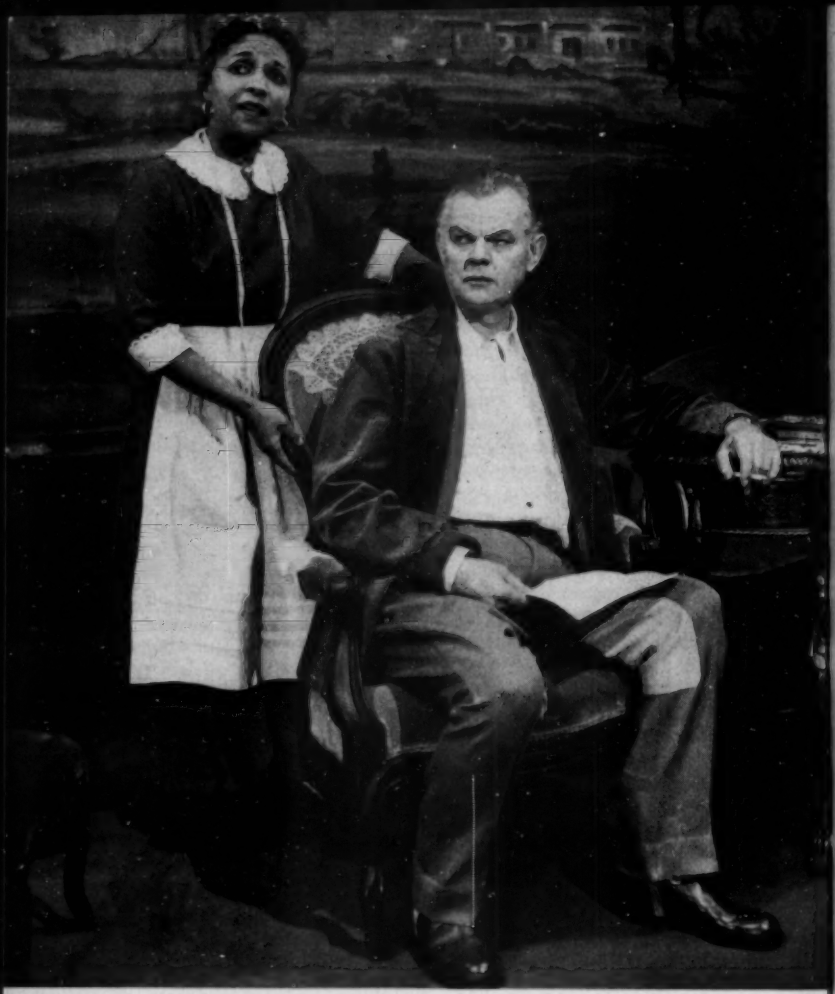
In an attractive and sleek pamphlet addressed to Negro voters of Ohio, the Taft for Senate Committee published its interpretation of the Senator's record on civil rights and assured these voters that Taft "doesn't promise one thing in his campaign and vote another in Congress." The pamphlet recalls that the Ohio Senator led the fight against the seating of Bilbo, the late Mississippi demagogue, in the 80th Congress. His consistent support of cloture to kill filibusters against civil rights measures, his votes for housing and federal aid to education, and his position on other vital issues are presented.

STORY TELESCOPED

But the story of Taft and the FEPC is adroitly telescoped. The Senator was chairman of the resolutions committee which drafted the party platform at the Republican National Convention in 1944. A plank in the platform of vital interest to Negro voters and other liberals declared: "We pledge the establishment by federal legislation of a permanent Fair Employment Practice Commission."

This pledge was regarded by Negroes as a promise to enact a bill with enforcement powers inasmuch as the chief complaint against the wartime FEPC was its lack of such power. Negro organizations and the Negro press had been demanding an FEPC with full legal power. The failure of the Democratic platform to mention FEPC encouraged Negro voters to hope that the Republicans meant to work for effective legislation against job discrimination. In the belief that the Republicans were pledging an FEPC with enforcement powers, Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,

(*Continued on page* 741)



George Kar

MURIEL RAHN AND LAWRENCE TIBBETT *in the much discussed musical-drama,* The Barrier. *The libretto of* The Barrier *was written by Langston Hughes and taken from his earlier play,* The Mulatto. *Jan Meyerowitz composed the musical score. The play opened at the Broadhurst theatre in New York City on November 2, but it lasted only three days, closing out on Monday, November 6.*

■ The "ads" do not mean what they say, if you are Negro

Home Hunting in Syracuse

By Wendell J. Roye

ON South Crouse Avenue, three blocks from Syracuse University, signs on a house announced in bold, block letters: ROOMS FOR RENT, ROOMS. A man of twenty-four rang the bell and one of twenty answered. The two had seen one another before, on the campus, but neither gave a sign of recognition.

"I came to see about a room. Sign says there are some here. Is there one suitable for a couple?" The visitor spoke slowly and carefully.

"I d'know. There's a lady in charge; I'll call her."

"She the owner or manager?"

"Ya, she does both, a widow. She'll let ya know."

He yelled toward the rear of the house and an elderly lady with white hair and a matronly figure appeared, wiping suds from her hands. The younger man drew back, but stood within earshot near a spic-and-span stairway.

"I came to see about rooms."

She was obviously startled, but recovered quickly. The student bit his lip, on the verge of laughter.

"Well I only rent to young people and students."

"Good. That's what I am, a student."

"But it's for two people, a couple."

"That's what I want it for, my wife and myself."

"Well, I'll have to talk to my husband; I just help him y'know. Come back later and speak to him."

"What time?"

"Oh, sometime this evening, or tomorrow. Better come back tomorrow."

"All right, but can I see the rooms now. We could talk better."

"No. You'd better see him. It wouldn't work."

"What wouldn't work?"

"You know."

"I know what?"

"Oh you know." She slammed the door.

The would-be roomer looked at

WENDELL J. ROYE *was a student at Syracuse University at the time of these experiences.*

the door a moment, his dark brown face wrinkled in dismay. He turned and stumbled up the hill toward University Place.

HOMELESS STUDENT

The homeless student wasn't angry; he was puzzled. He had been in Syracuse the length of a school term, but this was his first real encounter with the Syracuse private citizen. He'd been married during the Christmas holidays and now he was trying to find a place for himself and his bride to live while he attended Syracuse University's Graduate School in Journalism.

He only knew the city academically. Its population was 205,967 in 1940. It was 54 per cent Catholic. It was a town of 400 industries, and it was building a war memorial that would be the pride of the state. Syracuse was 98.7 percent native white and claimed to be the "Hub of the Empire State."

As early as 1839 some Syracusans had expressed themselves as in favor of racial tolerance. In that year the underground railway, operating in Syracuse, had helped Harriet Powell, a celebrated slave, to escape from her owners during a visit to Syracuse. Twenty-two years before the Civil War there were well organized abolitionists in Syracuse fighting against slavery.

On May 26, 1851, almost one hundred years ago, Daniel Webster made a special trip to Syracuse to censure Syracusans for opposing the Fugitive Slave Law, signed by President Fillmore in September 1850. Webster called the people traitors for placing human values above their fear of the law. Syracusans answered the great man by rescuing "Jerry," another famous fugitive from the hands of the federal law during a well-organized riot on October 1, 1851. In the seldom-read annals of American Negro History Syracuse has a respected place.

The first advertisement the bridegroom answered was in the morning paper. It read: "University Section (an East Genesee Street address) Hollywood studio apartment. Bus Lines. Walking distance from University." A man answered the door and said the room had been rented "An hour ago to a couple from the university." The home-seeker left, but during a discussion of the incident with a white friend he gave his friend the address. The friend went and was immediately shown the room. Although he too needed a room badly, he did not take it because the rent was too high. The "ad" was repeated in the morning paper for a week along with several others the student bridegroom had answered the same day. Then he followed a notice from the bulletin board of the School of Journalism. A student in one of his classes who lived in the house had told him to try. It was a good lead.

CLASSMATE HELPED

The "ad" read, "Large furnished room. Share kitchen and bath. Suitable for couple . . . University Avenue $8 wk." The classmate provided the telephone number. The home-hunter called. A woman with a heavy accent answered the phone and made an appointment for 5:30 the following Thursday evening.

She was startled by the unsmiling Negro, but soon gave forth with de-

vastating frankness. Her roomers would object; therefore, she could not afford to give him the room. She recommended a "colored block" she had noticed from a bus. After lengthy debate the owner agreed to speak to the roomers, and if they would agree the room was available. Then she would call. She was never heard from—and the classmate never mentioned the matter. Yet the notice on the bulletin board stayed there until it wore away and was renewed six weeks after the interview.

One school official, a housing dean, responded to an appeal for aid by giving a brief lecture on the similar problems of foreign students. "An English fellow pays $100 a month for an apartment." It was terrible, he said, "But there is no hope for a Negro couple." He recommended leaving the bride in New York City where she was waiting. The good dean had no advice or help other than this. He closed his lecture by saying, "There's no real discrimination in Syracuse. You must understand that."

An official at a veterans' housing project gave much sympathy, too, but also no help. The project was crammed. He was proud to say that two Negro families had managed to find places there and that they had, "Fitted in so well we hardly know they are there."

BRIDE INFORMED

Among the many disappointments and insults some stood out; others were remarkable for their rancor. The newly-wed kept his composure by taking long walks between calls. He shamefully wrote his bride and told her why he had not acquired a home for her. She replied, "Get anything, for the time being." Goaded by this plea he walked into a particularly bitter episode.

There was no address, just: JAMES ST. The rest of the "ad" read, "2 — rooms unfurnish, $25 month, 2 rooms, electric refrigeration, $57.50 month. 3 rooms, private bath, $65. Business people." This was followed by two telephone numbers.

He called the first number and the telephone was answered by a woman who identified herself as the sister of the person actually controling the rentals. She was very talkative, and after being informed of possible racial problems she described the apartments as suitable. She said her sister, the one in control, would have no objections on the basis of race.

The talkative "liberal" then gave a series of complicated directions on how to reach the sister at her home. Without these directions no one could hope to find the "controler"; there had been no address of any kind in the advertisement. The woman also told what bus to take from the pay-station telephone the man was using, and where to get off. She described the house and told of a short-cut from the bus-stop to the house, and from there to the private entrance of the apartment. The home-hunter followed directions to the letter and arrived within an hour. The sister's husband, the owner, opened the door. He, too, had been described by his talkative sister-in-law, "Big guy."

"I've come to inquire about the apartments you advertised in the paper. I called one of the numbers and spoke to Mrs. F . . .'s sister. She said come here."

"Apartments? We got no apartments."

"No apartments? What about the ad? She said they were available. The paper just came out a few hours ago."

"I never had nothin' but a two-room basement apartment and that was rented early this morning. We had no ad in no paper. That must be some other place." He read the "ad" in the out-thrust paper. "That's some other place."

"The sign on your door says F . . . Isn't your name F . . .?"

"Ya, but that must be some other." "She gave me directions that lead here."

"Well so what? It's accidental. I haven't any apartments to rent to you." The caller heard him and a woman laughing after the door slammed. The notice was repeated for several mornings thereafter. One of the apartments was still being advertised one week later.

After a month of constant search and constant insult the student found a place to stay temporarily, in a rooming house run by a Negro owner. It was a one-room kitchenette with no heat, except for an outmoded coal stove. Most of the three and four-room apartments he had been trying to get had cost less.

The bride came for a week end visit before moving permanently and spent most of her time shoveling coal. While in Syracuse she was interviewed for a job about which she had been corresponding with a social agency. Now the couple took another blow from "The Hub of the Empire State." Her Master of Social Work degree and experience were more than adequate, but a white girl had inquired about the job. She would have to wait for this other person to decide whether she wanted the position or not. They would know in about a month. The bride left a trifle disappointed, but prepared to move to Syracuse within a few weeks.

The student-bridegroom found another room; it was smaller, but heated. The rent was the same as before. His classmates continued to inquire as to how things were going and he continued to reply, "So, so."

SELECT NEIGHBORHOOD

Seven weeks of plugging deepened the irony when on answering a "University Section" advertisement, a woman refused him because the house was in a "Select neighborhood." The "select neighborhood" was a few blocks from the widely lauded Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, near where a railroad overpass crossed the streets and coal companies abounded. The center of Syracuse University's campus was less than a five minute walk away, with its College of Fine Arts' main building a landmark against the sky.

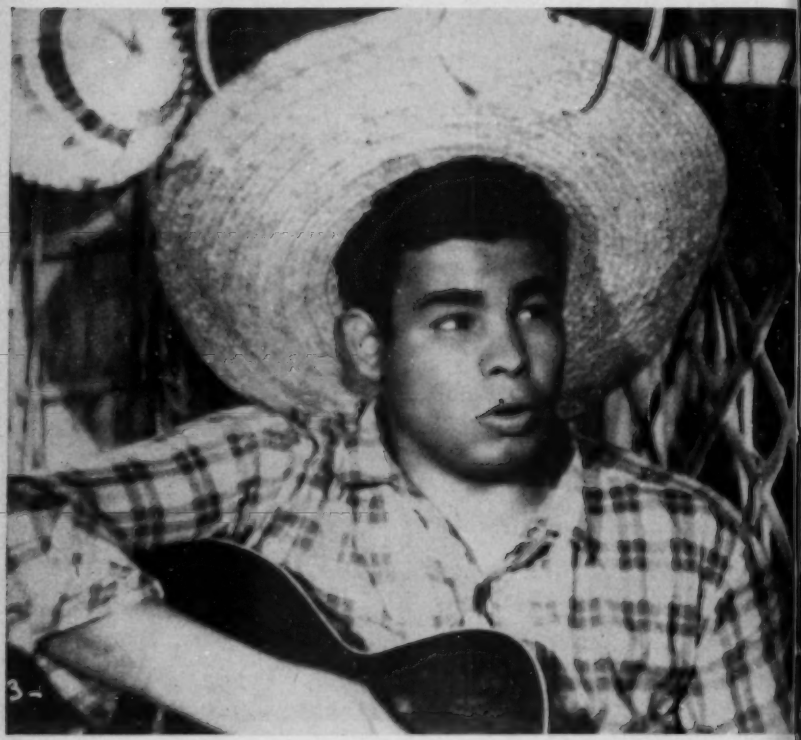
When the city was officially named "Syracuse" in 1820 by hard-working John Wilkinson, its first postmaster, salt was its major product; and salt was the dominating industry for seventy years. Obviously Syracuse's claim to being a democratic metropolis should be taken *cum grano salis*. It's quite a hub for the Empire State.

Wide World

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT *talks with Danish school inspector Victor Cornelis in Copenhagen. Cornelis, only Negro to hold an official post in Denmark, arrived in Denmark in* 1914 *at the age of seven from one of the then Danish colonies in the West Indies. He now serves in the town of Nakskov. In discussing the racial problem in the United States, Cornelis said that in Denmark he "could never feel he was of another color."*

DID YOU KNOW —

That the full name of Dumas père was Alexandre Dumas-Davy de la Pailleterie?



Scalera Film

HUSSEIN, *Angelo's uncle in* The Mulatto. *This Italian picture, a Scalera Film production, is the story of how Matteo Belfiore came to accept his foster son born to his wife of an American Negro soldier. The wife died in childbirth while Matteo was in prison and the child was placed by friends in an orphanage. Matteo had thought the child white and when freed tries unsuccessfully to get rid of it upon discovery that it's mulatto. However, Angelo's illness brings love. Hussein shows up at Angelo's birthday party to adopt him. The decision is left to the child, who decides to leave for America with his uncle. A gripping story despite its many concessions to American Negro stereotypes.*

Scalera Film

HUSSEIN *comes to adopt his little nephew, Angelo.* BOTTOM: *Angelo, the mulatto. Little Angelo in real life is the adopted son of Francesco de Robertis, the author and director of the picture. The film is scheduled for release in New York City next month.*

Good News

Dr. Helen D. Dickens of Philadelphia, Pa., was inducted into the American College of Surgeons in November. She is the first Negro woman to be so honored.

★ ★ ★

Twenty-three-year-old Dave Campbell, Jr., of Augusta, Ga., was named top cadet of the naval air station's pre-flight graduation class at Pensacola, Fla., on October 21. He was designated cadet regimental commander and received five gold stripes. This is the first time in United States naval history that the honor award has gone to a Negro cadet. Picture on page 728.

★ ★ ★

The Rev. Joseph A. Francis of Lafayette, La., is the thirty-fifth Catholic priest to be ordained in America.

★ ★ ★

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, director of trusteeships in the UN secretariat, has been appointed a professor of government in Harvard University. The professorship was voted by the Harvard Corporation on January 10 and confirmed by the Board of Overseers on April 10. Since Dr. Bunche asked for an immediate leave in accepting the appointment, it is not known when he will begin his teaching duties. Dr. Bunche holds both an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Harvard as well as an honorary Ll.D. awarded him in 1949.

★ ★ ★

Dr. Thomas P. Fraser, professor of biology at Morgan State College, served as a consultant November 1-4 at the conference on Education of Teachers in Science held at Columbia University.

★ ★ ★

Fifteen-year-old Elayne Wade of New York City wrote the winning essay on "Un Plus U Equals Peace." She received an award of $100.

★ ★ ★

E. L. Simon, assistant agency director of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company, is the first Negro to become a fellow of the Life Office Management Association Institute.

Acme

TOOTH AND CONSEQUENCES—*James Knight,* 4, *examines the teeth of Cheryl Medford, also* 4, *after they were chosen king and queen of dental health at the Children's Aid Society's West Side Center on October* 17. *They were selected from among twelve kindergarten-age finalists from six children's centers located in crowded New York's Manhattan neighborhoods.*

PRESIDENT CHARLES H. WESLEY, *of the College of Education and Industrial Arts (left), Wilberforce, confers with Colonel Marcus Ray, newly appointed professor of military science and tactics at the college.* BOTTOM: *"Miss Wilberforce" and her attendants following the presentation ceremony at the College of Education and Industrial Arts. "Miss Wilberforce" is third from right.*

■ This bearded black man took part in one of he most momentous overland journeys in the history of North America

Black Pathfinder of the Deserts

By Weldon F. Heald

A BLACK man "discovered" Arizona and New Mexico. He was called Esteban de Dorantes[1] and he blazed a trail for Europeans northward from Mexico in 1539, a year before Coronado's famous expedition. This Negro was one of the most amazing characters in the annals of North American exploration. He swaggered arrogantly through a chapter of history to his strange doom, and he left to posterity a story so fantastic and improbable that it is unique.

Esteban's curious odyssey should be better known to present-day Americans than it is. For this "bearded black man," born a slave, took part in one of the most momentous overland journeys in the history of North America and later was the sole discoverer in his own right of what are now the states of Arizona and New Mexico. As one historian puts it, Esteban "was the black ambassador of the white race to the red men of the walled pueblos." Thus this Negro explorer of the New World takes his place with that immortal company which includes such pathfinders as De Soto, Coronado, Lewis and Clark, and Fremont.

It all happened more than four hundred years ago when the great Spanish conqueror, Fernando Cortes, defeated red-skinned Montezuma in 1521 and added the vast territories of Mexico to Spain's ever-expanding world empire. Spaniards then sought new lands to plunder. The quest for gold, riches, and power drew the Empire's adventurous young men over the horizon into the unknown, and stately galleons sailed the seven seas in the service of Spain.

One of these glittering expeditions in search of new lands to conquer

[1]Also known as Steven Dorantes or Estevanico, "Little Steven."—Ed.

WELDON L. HEALD, *a free-lance writer of Hereford, Arizona, owns a piece of land over which Esteban passed. He has already applied to the county to name the road running by it, Esteban Road.*

was wrecked on the Florida coast in 1528. Out of an original company of 600 only four men survived: three white Spaniards and the Negro slave of one of them, Esteban de Dorantes.

For eight years the four men wandered in the wilderness. In some respects their journey from Florida across the continent to the Gulf of California was the most remarkable in the record of American exploration. As a stark, incredible saga of misery and privation it has no equal.

SUFFERED SIX YEARS

The four men endured shipwreck, exposure to the cold of winter and the burning desert sun. They were wracked with plague and decimated by hunger. For six years they suffered vile, barbaric abuse as slaves of the Indians. When, in the spring of 1536, the four wanderers arrived at the northern Mexican settlements, they were guant, naked and nearly dead. But they had crossed the continent from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of California and on the way had discovered the vast, empty lands of Texas and northern Mexico. The travellers brought with them, too, rumors which they had heard from the Indians. A great, rich country lay far to the north where were seven mighty cities. It was a land of gold, emeralds, and South Sea pearls, of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice.

Esteban and his three companions were conducted to Mexico City. There they told their story to Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain. The wily politician's eyes lighted as he heard of the riches far across the barren deserts to the north. There must be the fabulous "Seven Cities of Cibola" of which all Spaniards talked, but no one had as yet discovered. Here was an opportunity to add one of the juciest tidbits in the world to the Spanish Empire. Meanwhile profit, honor and power would come to the Viceroy.

But Mendoza was nobody's fool. He wasn't going to risk organizing and equipping a great military expedition merely on the strength of savage red-skin rumors. Instead, he cautiously planned a small reconnoitering party to penetrate far north and bring back verification of the riches awaiting the all-powerful Spanish conquerors. Mendoza believed in the Seven Cities of Cibola with heart and soul, but he was taking no chances.

PARTY ORGANIZED

The Viceroy quietly set about organizing his scouting party. As leader he picked Fray Marcos de Niza, an ambitious Franciscan friar. The choice of a man of god to lead the way into the wilderness was established policy. For Spain conquered with the cross as well as by the sword, and always on the lonely frontiers of the Empire the priest marched beside the soldier. Fray Marcos' orders were to spy out the land and to bring back a complete report of all the countries and peoples that he saw.

Mendoza desired a trustworthy guide to accompany the friar. And who could better serve than Esteban de Dorantes? The bearded black man knew the trails to the north, in part at least; he had gotten along well with the Indians and showed

remarkable proficiency in learning their customs and languages. He was tough and strong as an ox and he had come through his eight-year ordeal in the northern deserts unscathed. Furthermore, Esteban, alone among the four wanderers, was eager to embark upon the adventurous quest of Cibola. His three white companions had had enough of hardships and privations — they craved the civilized luxuries of Spain.

So Esteban and the Franciscan friar set out upon their historic journey on March 7, 1539. Accompanied by a small retinue of Indian slaves, the two explorers left the last white settlement behind them and plunged into the rough mountains and deserts of northern Mexico. They soon reached a savage land where neither white man nor black had been before them.

TEAM MISMATCHED

But the usually canny Mendoza had picked a mismatched team. Worldly Esteban chafed at the slow progress and solemn conduct of the godly friar. Saving the souls of the miserable red savages they met was hardly in his line. He remembered his former triumphal progress through Texas and Sonora where the Indians worshipped him as an ebon god. He remembered, too, the shy eyes of comely Indian women who left their villages to follow him wherever he might lead. With each delay Esteban became more impatient to press on to the freedom, riches, and power he knew awaited him in the great country to the north.

After two uncomfortable weeks of pulling in opposite directions, the team of Esteban and Fray Marcos split. The black guide was instructed by the priest to push forward at once and to send back word of what he found. As Esteban was illiterate, messages would be carried orally by fleet Indian runners. It was agreed that if he discovered a country of little importance he was to send back a cross of a hand's breadth; if it was of great importance, the cross would be twice as large; if larger and richer than Mexico, a huge cross should be sent.

Esteban probably departed from the confining influence of the friar with a sigh of relief. For it was during this short period as the Black Pathfinder hurried northward to his tragic fate that his exuberant and volatile character blossomed to the fullest extent. Nothing like Esteban's extraordinary cavalcade has been seen before or since on the deserts of the American Southwest.

This handsome, dusky cavalier with his flashing smile marched triumphantly through the Indian villages along his route. To the savages Esteban was chief, medicine man, and god combined in one; they bowed before him, offering precious stones, ornaments and gaudy mantles. And once again the Indian women deserted their huts in droves to follow adoringly in the wake of the black stranger. He "bewitched" their women, the red men complained. So Esteban was in his element. It was the high point of his life.

Four days after his departure from the priest a sweating Indian runner staggered into Fray Marcos' camp bearing a cross as tall as a man. "Come immediately," was the

message, "I have heard of the greatest country in the world." This surprising news at last lighted a flame of excitement even within the man of god. But the friar was never able to overtake his speeding scout who sent back another large cross with word that the country ahead was the greatest ever heard of.

So Esteban, with his ever-growing retinue of worshipful red-skinned followers, now numbering more than three hundred, crossed what is now the northern Mexican boundary and was the first man, white or black, to set foot in Arizona. He went arrayed in barbaric splendor, wearing colorful mantles decorated with gay feathers and jingling bells. Before him as a symbol of his power, was borne a magic Indian gourd rattle, and at his heels strode fierce Castilian greyhounds. Each evening in camp Indian maidens served their black chief sumptuous dinners on green Spanish plates. As Esteban hurried northward across the empty deserts of Arizona his fame and greatness went before him, and the natives made his way to Cibola easy with gifts and homage. At each Indian village too, he heard more startling tales of the seven great cities he was approaching.

FATE OF ESTEBAN

No man today knows for certain the fate of Esteban upon his arrival at the first city. He was never seen again by white men. But the two red-skinned followers who alone escaped the wrath of the Cibolas fled southward and related to Fray Marcos a violent story of sudden death.

When Esteban was within a day's march of the first city of Cibola, they report, he sent forward his gourd rattle by messenger as a sign that he wished to enter the city peacefully. But the Cibola chief angrily threw the gourd on the ground, declaring that the feathers and bells with which it was decorated were those of an enemy.

"Tell your lord," he said to the messenger, "that he will find out what sort of people live here. Instead of entering our city, you will all be killed."

But Esteban, feeling himself irrestible to mere savages, pressed on and at sunset presented himself at the gates of the city. He demanded audience with the chief.

"I come to tell you," he announced, "that you must prepare to receive a man with a white face, emissary of a powerful lord beyond the sunrise. He knows all the great things of heaven and earth and comes to instruct you in these matters."

This proud pronouncement was met with coldness by the chief. Esteban was not permitted entrance to the town, but was lodged in a miserable hut outside the walls. The Cibolas stripped him of his ornaments and bells and left him without food or drink. Next morning, "when the sun was about a lance high," Esteban again approached the city walls. Suddenly a savage war cry arose from the town and Cibola warriors poured forth from the gates. Esteban and his followers fled before a shower of arrows, but only two escaped to bring the news to Fray Marcos. One of these, looking back in his flight, saw Esteban fall transfixed with a score of Cibola arrows. It was reported later that he

was cut in pieces and a portion of his body was sent to the chiefs of each of the cities to assure them that this strutting black lord from beyond the southern horizon would never lead an invading army to level the proud citadels of Cibola and enslave its people.

ESTEBAN'S DISCOVERY

The news of Esteban's death threw Fray Marcos' Indian escort into paroxysms of fear. Weeping and wailing, they begged him not to proceed further. But the friar, according to his report, persuaded two chiefs to accompany him and "with much more fear than food" they approached the Seven Cities of Cibola. From a hill the friar looked down upon the scene of Esteban's discovery and sudden end, but dared not go further. He wrote, "It appears to be a very beautiful city. The best that I have seen in these regions. . . . The town is bigger than Mexico City." And with more enthusiasm than accuracy he reported that the country "seems to me to be the greatest and best of the discoveries."

Actually, Fray Marcos was describing the village of Hawikuh, largest of the six Indian Pueblos of Zuñi in present-day New Mexico. Hawikuh looks now much as it did when Esteban presented himself before its inhospital gates four hundred and ten years ago. The picturesque grouping of flat-topped, stone houses containing a few hundred inhabitants in the midst of barren desert was hardly an object to inspire a fever of avidity and greed in the swashbuckling, gold-loving Spanish conquistadores. What could Fray Marcos have seen to cause him to rush back to Mexico with the news that he and Esteban had discovered "a country so rich it did not seem possible"?

Modern historians, using Fray Marcos' own report as evidence, conclude that the good friar did not come closer than two or three hundred miles of Cibola, or Zuñi. Short of using an airplane he could not have covered the ground in the short time he recorded in his diary. But, they explain, Fray Marcos felt so certain that Esteban had discovered the fabulously wealthy cities that he drew a long bow on his imagination and put a white lie on his conscience. However, the friar has his ardent defenders too. Bandelier was one. He called Fray Marcos "the worst slandered man in history." The defence states that the friar was honestly mistaken: the little native village might well be taken for a flourishing city from a distance. So Fray Marcos' visit to the Seven Cities of Cibola[2] has become one of North America's most hotly-debated mystery stories.

MEXICO AROUSED

At any rate, upon his return to civilization, the friar's report of the shining land that he and Esteban had seen threw Mexico into a furor. He suddenly found himself the most famous figure in the country, which might have gone to the head of even a man of god. Swords were sharpened, armor forged and repaired, banners refurbished, as New Spain's

[2] *Cíbolo* or *Cíbola* was the name of an imaginary country or kingdom eagerly sought by the Spaniards to the north of Mexico. But they never found it. The word *cíbola*, or *zivolo* or *zibolo*, means *bison* in the Indian tongues of the American Southwest.—Ed.

men-of-arms prepared for a full-scale conquest of the great country to the north. Esteban had led the way and had died; but Spaniards would be avenged.

Viceroy Mendoza chose a young, highborn hidalgo named Francisco Vasquez Coronado to head his brilliant expeditionary force; and with him, to act as guide, went the newly elevated Father-Provincial Order, Fray Marcos de Niza. Near the close of 1540 the great company left on their quest, horses prancing, banners waving, and armor clanking. "By Saint James and at them " rang out the Spanish battle cry as the formidible army marched into the wilderness.

Coronado's journey was one of the most important events in early American history. Because of it, one-eighth of the United States still has Spanish traditions and flavor. But Coronado's two years of traversing the plains and deserts of the Southwest was significant as exploration rather than conquest. Nowhere did his army find the great cities and wealth described by Fray Marcos. At Hawikuh the friar fled back to Mexico in disgrace with the maledictions of the disgusted soldiers ringing in his ears. Coronado, himself, wrote to the Viceroy: "I can assure your lordship that in reality he has not told the truth in a single thing that he has said. . . ."

These stirring events in the desert occurred sixty-seven years before the English settled Jamestown and it was a full eighty years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. But the memory of the Black Pathfinder still lives on at Zuñi. Around the pueblo fires the legend is told of the Negro lord who came as the emissary of the white men. The strange story of Esteban de Dorantes should live too in the memory of Southwesterners, for as our first explorer he ranks among the great and he stands out in vivid, eccentric hues from the dim pages of history.

That the word "Negro" appears only once in the plays of Shakespeare? This is in the *Merchant of Venice* III.5.42, yet its synonym, "Moor," occurs some sixty times, mostly in *Othello*, but also in the *Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, and *Titus Adronicus*.

* * *

That the first recorded use of the word "Negro" in print is in Eden's *Decades*, 1555?

"They are not accustomed to eate such meates as doo the Ethiopians or Negros."

Mitchell

A TRIO OF POPULAR FAVORITES—*Sarah Vaughan and Duke Ellington take time out from their stage activities to admire another popular favorite—some NAACP Christmas seals, of which they are the first purchasers in the* 1950 *drive.*

Your Dollar's Worth

WILLYS STATION WAGON

The *Willys* Station Wagon proved to be an efficient short-haul utility car in Consumers Union's road tests. It was not a comfortable passenger car, and was a tiring car to drive long distances. Compactness, maneuverability, maximum cargo space for its size, excellent traction on slippery roads, and outstanding economy distinguished this six-passenger utility vehicle.

PAPER TOWELS

Only two of 23 brands of perforated-roll paper towels tested by Consumers Union were found to be outstanding in over-all quality. They were *Scot* (17c) and *Good Housekeeping* Green Label (18c). *Princess,* (13c) the cheapest of all brands tested, rated next. According to CONSUMER REPORTS, wet strength was considered first in importance in the tests because with low wet strength, towels tend to disintegrate in use. Besides the towels mentioned, CU rated the following brands high: *Zee,* 15c; *Seda,* 17c; *Co-op* (Eastern Cooperatives, Inc.), 15c; and *Statler* (28c for large roll). The prices are the averages paid by CU shoppers.

APPLESAUCE

The U. S. Department of Agriculture tested 50 brands of applesauce for Consumers Union and found 32 to be U. S. Grade A or Fancy. Two were rated substandard because of defects. Applesauce, according to CONSUMERS REPORTS, makes a good dessert and a tasty accompaniment to other dishes, but it lacks any outstanding nutritive qualities. It is low in vitamin content compared with other processed fruits. An "Acceptable-Grade A" rating was given the following brands which are listed in order of increasing cost for a No. 2 can: *Ideal* Fancy Quality, 13c; *Bluebrook,* 14c; *Bohack's* Best, 15c; *Cherry Valley,* 15c; *Finast,* 15c; *Grand Union,* 15c; *My-Te-Fine,* 15c; *Stop and Shop* Grade A Fancy, 15c; *Barlows* Gravenstein, 16c. The prices are the averages paid by CU's shoppers.

RAISINS

Don't choose raisins for their iron content. Raisins are good as high-energy food, but in the quantities generally eaten, they contain relatively little iron. All 44 brands of seeded and seedless raisins tested by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for Consumers Union were judged "Acceptable."

Some Grade A brands were cheaper than some of the lower grades. Seeded raisins generally cost more than seedless, reflecting extra costs of processing. Some brands of seedless raisins rated "Acceptable-Grade A" by CU were: *Market Day* Special Thompson, 30c (2 lb.); *Fewel's Shamrock* California, 15c; *Freshpak* Fancy, 15c; *Stop & Shop* Superior Quality Thompson, 15c; *Red & White* Fancy, 17c; *Budget Pack* Thompson, 29c, (24 oz.) *Co-op*, 18c (all 15 oz. except where noted.)

Some seeded raisins found "Acceptable-Grade A" were: *Stop & Shop* Superior Quality Seeded Muscat, 19c; *A & P* Seeded Muscat, 21c; *Dessert* Seeded Muscat, 22c; *Red & White* Fancy Seeded Muscat, 23c; *Sun Maid* Puffed Seeded Muscats, 23c; *Del Monte* Seeded Muscat, 25c (all 15 oz.). All prices are the averages paid by CU shoppers.

YOUR DOLLAR'S WORTH is a digest of articles appearing in CONSUMER REPORTS (the monthly magazine published by Consumers Union, 38 E. First Street, N. Y. 3, and available by individual subscription at $5 a year). Product ratings are based on unbiased laboratory tests on samples purchased by Consumers Union in the open market.

That the word *miscegenation* was invented by the journalist David Goodman Croly?

Croly, managing editor of the quasi-Copperhead New York *World*, coined the word for his 72-page pamphlet, "Miscegenation: The Theory of the Blending of the Races, Applied to the American White Man and the Negro" (1863). The pamphlet was a hoax which Croly co-authored with his friend George Wakeman, a *World* reporter, and issued anonymously as if it had been written by Abolitionists. It made miscegenation a campaign issue in the election of 1864, when Lincoln was running for his second term.

★ ★ ★

That the first satirical novel to detail the consequences of changing American Negroes into whites was written by a Brazilian?

In *The Negro President* (1926) the author, José Bento Monteiro Lobato (1883-1948), describes how a Negro, Jim Roy, was elected president of the United States in 2228, how the Negroes got white, and how they were finally eliminated by a hair straightening process that sterilized them.

★ ★ ★

That "the Negro Bayano" led a slave revolt in Peru in 1555?

■ This little incident points up the double vices of smugness and race prejudice

Incident At Oberlin

By Melissa Mather

I HAPPEN to be white. I only mention it because otherwise there wouldn't be any point to what the women said. Maybe there isn't much point to what they said, anyway. I like to think they were pretty unimportant people, with unimportant minds, and unimportant thoughts.

I was a student at Oberlin College, in Ohio. Oberlin is what some people call "broad-minded" — first college to admit women, back in the 1830's, no fraternities (they're undemocratic), and how you worship God or what color your skin is has nothing to do with getting in, as long as you have a good mind and are willing to use it.

Like the majority of students at Oberlin, I was earning part of my way. I had one of the plushier jobs during my junior year. I waited table in the Oberlin Inn, which is listed in *Duncan Hines* as a good place to eat. Nobody cares what color your skin is if you happen to be hungry, either, as long as you like simple food prepared with skill and are willing to pay for it.

MELISSA MATHER (Mrs. R. L. Coughlin) resides at Fort Monroe, Va.

The dining room has comfortable Windsor chairs at little tables-for-two or round oval tables for larger groups. There are lots of windows for the sun to stream in or the rain to drum on. Duncan Hines is right. It's a good place to eat. Professors take their wives out to dine there on their wedding anniversaries; visiting parents use it as a probing ground for the mental state of their student-children; serious couples, going steady "for good," make it a special date; and travelling salesmen regularly drive sixty miles out of their way to lunch there. And then we used to get "strangers," too.

These two women were strangers. The day they were in my section, I was "early girl" and had to miss chapel. It was a chapel I did not want to miss, as the Negro male quartet was singing.

I had taken these women's orders and given them their soup, when I saw them stiffen. The four singers were coming in for a celebration luncheon after what was undoubtedly another fine performance. They sat down at a table in my section. Although I wasn't a Conservatory of Music student, I knew one boy, as he was in my

"Advanced English Lit class." When I took their orders, he said hello to me (Why be snobbish and snub your waitress?) and introduced me to his friends.

I told them how sorry I was to have missed hearing them sing. When I brought in the first course, the boy I knew said they were going to do another chapel program later in the spring. If I was on duty early that day, why not switch with another student waitress? I said it was a good idea.

SHE GOT STARES

When I went to serve these two women their salad luncheons, I noticed that they were frankly staring. This always annoys me. What's wrong with being a waitress? I thought. Darn good job, full board and tips. Still, I hate to be gawked at as if I'm some kind of freak. I suppose I had a kind of distant look on my face as I put their plates down.

"Are you a student here?" one of them asked me.

I said I was.

"Doesn't it make you feel queer to have to wait on those niggers?"

I was pretty young for nineteen, and I didn't have much poise. My voice shook with anger when I answered, "Why should it? They're my friends . . . and here we say *Negroes.*"

The women exchanged amused glances. "Oh, yes, Oberlin!" said the other woman. "My mother used to tell us when we were little, if we werent's good she'd send us to that nigger school when we grew up!"

Well, I was only nineteen and I needed my job. Maybe I wouldn't have lost it if I had told them what I was thinking, it being Oberlin. But I didn't say any more. I went into the kitchen and asked a friend of mine to do their dessert: I was afraid I'd drop it down their necks. And then I sat down and felt all-gone inside, with shame.

It wasn't that they were white, and so was I, and their prejudice therefore smeared me too. That was partly it, of course. It wasn't the dig at the quality of my school, which was almost childish in its viciousness.

SMUGNESS INFURIATING

It was their smugness, their infuriating smugness. There they sat, two well-dressed, presumably well-educated, probably well-to-do women. And they displayed, by their appalling rudeness to a person who was at that moment in the helpless position of being their servant, a lack of breeding almost monumental.

Yet they had the blind conceit to assume superiority to my fellow-students based on pigment alone!

Why should I feel "queer" at serving anyone who treated me with courtesy, even though his skin happened to be darker than mine?

Couldn't they see it was serving *them* that humiliated me?

As I said, they were small people with small minds. But the thoughts they expressed are neither small nor unimportant, because too many people are thinking the same thoughts, are voicing the same poisonous prejudices.

The only really important thing about what happened is this: I kept still.

Editorials

THE ELECTIONS

THE election returns are in and the politicians, lay as well as professional, have been trying to analyze and assess the meaning of the results. This is a game in which the judgment of the man on the street is apt to be as sound as that of the expert. After all it was the anonymous man on the street who cast the decisive ballots in this very important election.

Although failing to gain control of either house, the Republicans certainly won a moral victory in that they strengthened their position within both houses. In a sense they are better off as a large minority than as a slight majority. They are now in a position to influence, if not to dictate, legislation without bearing the responsibility, inasmuch as the Democratic party is still the majority party in Congress.

Actually, the election presents an enigma. It would be easy to repeat, as has been said, that the re-election of Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, with an overwhelming majority, is an indication of a swing to the right. But what is one to make of the re-election on the same day of Senators Wayne Morse of Oregon and Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire, both liberal Republicans who have supported much of the Fair Deal, including the civil rights program?

There is no indication, however, that the voters followed any consistent pattern throughout the country. Liberals, lukewarm and fighting, as well as conservatives, were defeated in some states and elected in others. On the vital issue of civil rights there appears no reason to believe that there will be any basic change in performance as compared with the 81st Congress.

For Negro citizens the results of the election are cause neither for lamentation nor for rejoicing. There is unlikely to be any change on the legislative front in the fight for civil rights. This, of course, does not mean that there shall be any lessening of the drive for enactment of these bills by the NAACP and other organizations and individuals who realize that the denial of basic human rights is not only detrimental to domestic progress, but also a serious impediment to the standing and prestige of the nation in foreign affairs.

RACE TAG REMOVED FROM BLOOD

THE American National Red Cross has announced officially that it is going to take steps to eliminate racial designation of donors to its blood bank. We laud the Red Cross on this enlightened step. For the policy of asking donors to the blood bank to designate their race was medieval in principle and a manifest absurdity in practice. It was a wholly unnecessary concession to American racism, and the NAACP had long campaigned against the practice.

The plea of Red Cross officials when criticized was that the racial tag was for "purposes of medical research." But all human blood is the same, and the American Negro is a race only by definition. Scientists know this. The great point about blood has nothing to do with race. It has to do with the four hereditary blood groups. All the rest is part of the enormous legacy of superstitions and rites concerned with blood handed down to us by the Romans and Greeks. When the Red Cross demanded race tags for the blood of donors, their officials were being just as superstitious and racist as were the Nazis when they forced Germans to take out "race cards" as certification of Aryan descent. And since American Negroes are a genetically mixed people, the tag "Negro" on their blood never served any useful purpose. Only a racist mentality could imagine that it did, and it is a sad commentary on a great organization like the American National Red Cross that it should have given even temporary haven to the imbecility.

SMEARING NEGRO GIs IN KOREA

RECENT reports of wholesale courts-martial of Negro GIs in Korea is disturbing. These boys are apparently being made scapegoats for the failure of Army brass. First dispatches from the Korean front praised Negro soldiers for their bravery and heroic performances before Yechon. Then came the court-martial of Lt. Leon Gilbert for alleged misconduct under fire, followed by reports that the 24th Infantry was responsible for the breakthrough at "Battle Mountain." White soldiers, Army officers averred, might have prevented the collapse. Actually the first batch of American soldiers in Korea were not battle-wise veterans, which was cause of the routs of both white and Negro troops.

Apparently the Army is out to make a catchword and a travesty of integration. How else explain the consistent pattern of Army criticism of Negro GIs in Korea? Army tradition has it that Negroes should be used in labor and personal service, since they are not good enough to fight and die for their country. They may be used sparingly in combat outfits, but then they will perform best when serving under white officers. This is Army tradition. But the integration program of the President flies in the face of this creed. Hence the best way to undermine integration is by discrediting Negro troops, as is now being done in Korea.

Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of *The New York Times*, probably states Army opinion in his dispatch of November 3 when he writes:

> There is one major problem—the best use of Negro troops—upon which Korea shed some light. The Negroes in the "Red Ball" truck supply routes, and other non-combat work did well.
>
> In combat units, particularly in the infantry, it is an understatement to say they did considerably well.

But Negro Americans will not be satisfied until this smear is removed from their sons. They will be satisfied with nothing less than complete vindication.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

FUND APPEAL

Branches Respond: Responding to an emergency appeal for funds, more than 100 branches and state conferences of the NAACP have contributed a total of $9,121 to the Association. In addition, individuals and organizations have contributed more than $5,000.

Although the response of the branches has been gratifying so far, there remains a pressing need for additional funds if the Association is to be enabled to continue its all-out drive against discrimination and segregation.

Following an address by Mr. White to a packed house in Anniston, Ala., in November the Alabama state conference of branches sent in a check for $1,000. Other large contributions from branches include Plainfield, N. J., Richmond, Va., Pittsburgh, and Grank Rapids, Mich., $500 each; Bayonne, N. J. and Toledo, Ohio, $250 each; Portland, Ore., and Akron, Ohio, $200 each; South Carolina state conference, $158; New Rochelle, N. Y., $150; Anderson, S. C., $110; and $100 each from Los Angeles, Oakland and Pasadena, Calif.; Wilmington, Del.; Boston; Detroit; Columbia, Mo.; Camden, Newark, the Oranges and Trenton, N. J.; Amityville, L. I.; Mt. Vernon, Hilburn and Rochester, N. Y.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Fort Worth, Tex.; Decatur, Ill.; Charleston, S. C.; and the West Virginia state conference of branches.

Individual contributors include Alfred Baker Lewis, a member of the NAACP board of directors, $1,250; Paul Tishman and Willard W. Allen, $500 each; Grant J. Pick, $250; and $100 each from Jackie Robinson, Mrs. Amy Spingarn, (also a board member) Thomas Fleming, Josephine J. Williams, Professor D. Perkins, Mrs. Richard M. Harris, Virginia A. Heal, F. Ritter Shumway, Caroline Cook, John Jay Jones, Abraham W. Meyer, Dr. W. A. Thompson, M. N. Smith and Frank L. Williams. Also the Antillean Holding Co. and the Union Baptist Church, of New York; and the Irving Blumberg Foundation of Minneapolis.

LEGAL

To Defend Negro GI's: Alarmed by published reports of large-scale arrests and courts martial of Negro soldiers in Korea, Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, has directed Frank Reeves, the NAACP's Washington attorney, to make inquiries at the Department of the Army as to the validity of these reports.

THESE BUSINESS LEADERS *are key chairmen in the* 1950 *NAACP Christmas seal campaign. Left to right they are W. D. Morison, Jr., of Detroit, Mich., president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, chairman of the drive in the real estate field; Norman O. Houston of Los Angeles, Calif., president of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co. and the National Negro Insurance Association, who heads the campaign in the insurance field; and Horace Sudduth of Cincinnati, Ohio, president of the National Negro Business League, who is directing seal sales in the general business field.*

At the same time, Mr. Marshall, noting that there have been no similar reports of courts martial of white soldiers, announced that "the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is ready to defend, with all of its resources, any of these servicemen upon determination that they are victims of racial discrimination." The NAACP attorney emphasized the fact that the Association can act only in cases where requested to do so by the soldier or a close relative.

In the November 4 issue of The *Afro-America*, James L. Hicks reported from Tokyo that he had seen on a train in Japan 11 members of the 24th Infantry who had been convicted by general courts martial of "misconduct before the enemy" and had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment at hard labor. Mr. Hicks said he was not permitted to talk to the men, who were under heavy guard.

Frank Whisonant, reporting from Taejon, Korea, in The *Courier* of November 11, said that "ninety-nine and nine-tenths per cent of the men tried" before court martial boards were Negro troops from the 24th Infantry. One man, he said, had been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment after a three-hour trial. He observed "two long lines of Negroes going through the two military courts of 'justice' set up in Taejon."

"Coming on the heels of the conviction of Lt. Leon Gilbert and Hanson W. Baldwin's sneer at Negro troops in The New York *Times* of November 3, the reports of these cases seem to fit into a pattern designed to discredit the heroic performance of Negro soldiers in Korea," Mr. Marshall said.

"It should not be forgotten," he continued, "that throughout the early phases of the war, American troops, white as well as Negro, were retreating precipitously before the onslaught of the North Koreans. Yet I have seen no reports indicating wholesale arrests and convictions of white troops."

Gilbert Case: Complete dismissal of all charges against Lieutenant Leon Gilbert, who faces a death sentence for alleged misconduct under fire in Korea, was asked by NAACP and other attorneys representing the accused officer in a hearing before the Judicial Council of the Judge Advocate General's office.

Dismissal of the charges was urged on the grounds (1) that the original court-martial had committeed an error in that country was not technically at war, and accordingly the 75th Article of War could not be invoked to impose the death sentence; (2) that by the Army's own definitions the accused officer was not responsible for his alleged misconduct, and (3) that he had not been given a fair trial.

It was also pointed out at the hearing, held on October 24, that the record of the court-martial failed to include available evidence favorable to Lt. Gilbert and that this failure suggested the need for investigation. The Judicial Council was further reminded that racial discrimination in the Army makes the case one of grave importance.

Representing Lt. Gilbert at the hearing were Judson Ruch and William Wogan, attorneys of York, Pa., and Frank Reeves of Washington, NAACP attorney. Also present at the hearings were Congressman James F. Lind of York, Lt. Gilbert's home town, and Clarence Mitchell, director of the NAACP Washington Bureau.

Immediately following his arrest and before the court-martial, on August 12, Lt. Gilbert, through his wife, Kay, appealed to the NAACP for assistance. Following his conviction, Lt. Gilbert himself wrote asking the NAACP to intervene in the case.

EDUCATION

Kentucky College Opened: Federal District Judge Roy M. Shelbourne ruled in November that Negro citizens of Paducah are entitled to admission to municipally-maintained Paducah junior college, whose enrollment has heretofore been restricted to white students.

In his findings of fact, Judge Shelbourne concurred in the position of the Association, which had represented plaintiffs Fred A. Wilson, Jr., and Henry L. Powell in their suit for admission to the college. Paducah maintains no institution of similar standing, where Negro students are able to obtain courses at the college level. The court noted that students attend-

ing Paducah junior college are able to save from $400 to $900 per year by being able to attend college while living at home.

Appeal in North Carolina: The refusal of North Carolina to open the doors of its graduate and professional schools to Negro students despite the recent Supreme Court rulings is again under attack in a notice of appeal from the lower court ruling upholding the right of the University of North Carolina to exclude Negroes from its law school. The appeal was filed in October.

Federal Judge Johnson J. Hayes of the middle district of North Carolina refused to comply with the NAACP request that the university be ordered to admit four Negro students to the law school, ruling that the facilities of North Carolina college for Negroes were equal to those of the University of North Carolina.

College President on Board: Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse college in Atlanta and a leading spokesman for Negro rights in the South, is one of three persons newly nominated for three-year terms on the board of directors of the NAACP. Nominated with Dr. Mays were Dr. James L. Leach, president, Michigan state conference of branches; and Samuel Williams, president of the Association's branch in Orange, N. J.

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FOR THIRTY-ONE YEARS *Mrs. Clara B. Howard has been secretary of the Bakersfield, Calif., NAACP branch. Franklin H. Williams, west coast regional director, is pictured with Mrs. Howard.*

What the Branches Are Doing

Illinois: The state conference of NAACP branches met in Moline October 14-15. Rev. Robert R. Johnson, state president, reported on conference activities during the year, prominent among which were the school segregation cases. A successful segregation fight was won in the East St. Louis, Ill., school system and special commendation went to President David Owens of the East St. Louis branch and attorney Billy Jones. The fight in Alton, Ill., still goes on.

A unique feature of the conference was the NAACP "bookmobiles," designed "to carry all forms of material necessary to put back into our culture the colored people's contribution which has been left out." Promotor of the "bookmobile" idea is Kathryn M. Johnson of the Ezella Mathias Carter home for Colored Working Women, Chicago, Ill.

Conference speakers included George B. Nesbitt, FHHFA, division of slum clearance; William E. Hill, race relations advisor, PHA, Chicago; Cora Patton, chairman education committee state conference; Dr. A. F. Schersten, sociology department, Augustana college, Rock Island; A. Abbott Rosen, director mid-west office Anti-Defamation League; Frank Alsup, chairman labor and industry committee state conference; Al Weiss, executive secretary Illinois FEPC; and Father William O'Connor, St. Ambrose college, Davenport, Iowa.

Minnesota: The first annual state conference of branches in Minnesota was held on October 28 in Minneapolis.

According to the Minneapolis branch, housing continues to be a most perplexing cause of distress to a large number of families in that city. The recent refusal of the Minneapolis city council to approve two sites selected by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for projects to accommodate about 800 families has precipitated a crisis.

New York: Annual membership drive of the Albany branch got under way on September 24 when Lottie Dixon, mezzo-soprano, and the Bethany church joined in a membership benefit.

Karl Neilson, minister of the Unitarian church, has been appointed church secretary of the branch.

There is good news in the report that Rev. O'Neal, pastor of the Walls Temple AMEZ church, has been made a substitute teacher of history and English at the Albany high school; and that Miss Gielliard, another local woman, is teaching in one of the elementary schools. This is the belated result of the work of Ed Kennell, executive secretary of the Inter-Racial Council, who cracked the school system several years ago with the appointment of Mrs. Marian Carter Hughes.

Pennsylvania: Sixteenth annual state conference of NAACP branches and youth councils was held at Erie September 29-October 1.

Among the resolutions adopted by

Wilson

THE PHILADELPHIA BRANCH *secures its third NAACP life membership from prominent local realtor C. Percy White in its 1950 membership campaign. From left to right: Mrs. Annie McDougald, campaign chairman; Attorney Theodore Spaulding, associate chairman of special gifts and life memberships committee; and C. Percy White.*

DID YOU KNOW—

That the first real dictionary of English, Nathaniel Bailey's (1721), defines Negro as "a Blackmoor or Black Slave"?

the conference was one endorsing the action of the delegates at the 41st annual convention in Boston on the Communists; another resolution asked that all branches in the state work to "make FEPC in the state of Pennsylvania a reality"; and six other resolutions dealt with the armed forces, education, political action, veterans membership, and a branch coordinator.

The Army was condemned for its failure to cooperate in the elimination of discrimination and segregation in the armed forces. The end of segregation in the state's schools was called for.

Virginia: Fall membership campaign of the Loudoun county branch was launched on August 30, with a unique program designed to measure the progress of the community by means of the educational and academic training of its sons and daughters.

A meeting was held in the Shiloh Baptist church, Middleburg, in which all Loudoun county students currently enrolled in colleges and universities were asked to participate and to discuss the significance of their particular fields of interest. The principal speech of the meeting was made by Dr. Bolden on the subject "Preparation for Successful Living."

Mrs. Marie Medley is branch president; William Jackson, vice-president; and Mrs. Bernice Ewing, secretary.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Death of Dr. Ward: One of the finest warriors in the Negro's fight for equality died Wednesday morning, September 27. He was Dr. E. E. Ward of Dallas, Texas, and his death was occasioned by a heart attack as he sat in his office.

Dr. Ward died as he had said he wanted to die, facing the battle. Among his many civic activities was one he prized the most: he was director general of the Sweatt Victory Fund drive now being pushed in Texas for $50,000 to finance the struggle of Texas Negroes for complete freedom.

Texas Park Case: The Texas Park case, which was filed in October, 1949, has been considerably delayed in coming to trial. The reason for this appears to be an unwillingness on the part of the trial judge to hear the matter during or prior to the 1950 park season; that is, between April and September, 1950.

At a calendar call on June 12, 1950, attorneys for the petitioners urged the court to try the matter during June or July, but the court refused and set it for trial on September 5, 1950, which is the day after the parks generally close.

After it was filed in October, at which time there was no law in Texas which made segregation in parks mandatory, the state legislature, which met in January 1950 in a special session, enacted legislation making segregation in such parks mandatory.

After the passing of this legislation, attorneys for the petitioners, in an effort to comply with the national office policy with respect to segregation, amended their complaint by making a direct attack on the segregation statute in public parks in Texas. This effort was designed to bring the matter within the jurisdiction of a statutory three-judge court. At Austin on September 5 Judge Rice agreed to assemble a three-judge court and to refer the Park case to it for trial.

In Houston on September 11 the three-judge court ordered that the matter should be retained by the three-judge court until the Texas court had an opportunity to give an interpretation of the statute involved.

The present status of the Texas Park case is that it now is being held by a three-judge federal district court pending action in the Texas state courts.

Houston Takes Quota: The Houston committee of the Sweatt victory fund

CHICAGO, ILL., BRANCH PICKET LINE *in front of the office of the Citizen Loan Association after Herbert Hill, assistant NAACP field secretary, had talked with manager William Vanderbilt about his anti-Negro hiring policy. Mr. Vanderbilt stated: "We have not employed Negroes for thirty years and we don't intend to begin now." Mr. Vanderbilt is shown talking to picket at head of line.*

PART OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE *of the Bakersfield, Calif., branch: first row (L to R): Mrs. McWillie Green, Mrs. Emma Drisdom, Mrs. Clara Howard, Mrs. Lawson Collins; second row: Henry Young, Robert Porter, Rev. H. H. Collins, Jr., president; Franklin H. Williams, NAACP west coast regional director. This branch has 119 members and has met its quota of 75 set by the national office.* BOTTOM: *Annual meeting of the South Carolina state conference held in Spartanburg October 14-15.*

has accepted the responsibility of raising $12,000 in the drive. This amount represents almost one-fourth of the fund's goal of $50,000 to be applied to the legal education of Heman Marion Sweatt, who entered the University of Texas school of law this September, and to a continuing attack on segregation represented by eight legal cases, four of them already placed in litigation by the Texas State NAACP.

Decision of the Houston committee, headed by Dr. John W. Davis and the vice-chairman of the board of trustees of the Sweatt victory fund, was reached in a meeting held on September 24. Other members of the Houston group include Mrs. Lullelia Harrison, Felton Purnell, W. D. Powell and Carter Wesley.

It was further agreed in this meeting between the Houston committee and the fund's board of trustees that the first $11,000 collected from any source would be earmarked specifically for Sweatt's three-year maintenance and legal education, and that this money would be set aside, by a five-man finance committee selected from the trustees, in insured interest bearing securities pending their issuance by the finance committee to Mr. Sweatt.

Texas State Conference: The 1950 Texas state NAACP convention held in Corpus Christi, Texas, October 13-15, was acclaimed by delegates, officials, and visitors as the best ever held in the fourteen-year history of the organization. This was confirmed in Dallas by A. Maceo Smith, Texas state NAACP secretary, who stated that "the attendance of 165 delegates to our meetings, the conference income of $1,583, and the prevalent attitude of aggressiveness and enthusiasm were ample evidence that this convention towered head and shoulders above any recent meeting."

Of the convention income, $619 of the amount was contributed by an audience of 1,200 persons who jammed Solomon Cole high school auditorium Sunday afternoon, the 15th, to hear NAACP special counsel Thurgood Marshall in a speech that fittingly climaxed the three-day sessions. The convention had been keynoted by Attorney W. J. Durham of Dallas in a mass meeting the Friday night preceding, and another capacity audience heard regional special counsel U. S. Tate on Saturday night, the 14th.

It was notable that all three of the principal speakers, the tenor of the business sessions transpiring during the days, and convention resolutions, all rapped the system of segregation mercilessly. It was this central theme around which concrete plans were drafted to raise in the branches the sum of $24,000 during the insuing fiscal year to meet a rigid budget and to up the Texas membership by 20,000 by January 1.

Among resolutions adopted was one instructing the Austin NAACP lobby, headed by J. H. Morton, to draft a fair employment practice bill for presentation to the next session of the Texas legislature. Other resolutions committed the Texas NAACP to an early attack on segregation in intrastate and interstate travel, to an all-out poll-tax-payment drive and cooperation with other agencies so engaged, to fostering elimination of religious and racial tensions, elimination of segregation in housing and in the Armed Forces, and on police brutality.

The resolution on civil rights emphasized a responsibility to promote the feeling in the South of the unique opportunity afforded the South itself to champion the cause of civil rights.

Winner of the annually awarded Atlanta Life Insurance Cup for excellence of branch operation was the San Antonio branch, Harry V. Burns, president, and Dr. C. A. Whittier, board chairman. The San Antonio branch was cited for having tripled its 1949 membership and for having consistently

maintained a militant program the past year.

Officers re-elected were John Jay Jones of Texarkana, president; A. Maceo Smith of Dallas, executive secretary; J. H. Clouser of Galveston, treasurer; J. E. Robinson of Houston, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Lulu B. White of Houston, director of branches; Attorney W. J. Durham of Dallas, resident counsel. New officers were Mrs. Pearl C. Anderson of Dallas, assistant secretary, and Wm. Thompson of Kingsville, a vice-president.

The city of Austin was decided upon as the site of the 1951 Convention.

Barnett Regular Student: Herman Barnett, a year ago accepted into the University of Texas school of medicine but only as a contract student from the Texas State university for Negroes at Houston, is now a regularly enrolled student at UT's School of Medicine with no connection whatever with TSU.

The alteration in Mr. Barnett's status was initiated when the Veterans Administration wrote Barnett and University of Texas authorities advising them that the contractural arrangement between UT's medical school and TSU was not recognized by VA, and that therefore GI-bill tuition and expenses for Barnett for both 1949-50 and 1950-51 school terms were being disallowed, although VA would still grant the young ex-Air Force officer subsistence funds.

Subsequently NAACP regional special counsel U. S. Tate wrote UT President T. S. Painter a leter under date of September 28, in which Mr. Tate pointed out that he represented Mr. Barnett, and that the persistence of the contractural arrangement subjected his client to "a position of doubt and embarrassment as to his rights under the Veterans' Administration, and is threatened with a serious financial loss." "Further," said Mr. Tate, "Mr. Barnett's present status as a medical student in Texas places him under an emotional

Jones

REV. ARCHIBALD CAREY, JR., *one of the first Negro ministers to become a radio commentator. His "Report to the People" comes over Station WJJD in Chicago, Ill., every Saturday at 5:15 P.M.*

stress which is detrimental to him as a medical student."

As a result of these presentations from the VA and Mr. Tate, Mr. Barnett on October 12 received a letter from D. Bailey Calvin, dean of student and curricular affairs at the UT school of medicine, stating in part as follows:

"I have received notice from the secretary of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas to the effect that the contractural relationships with the Texas State University for Negroes, Houston, Texas, for medical education no longer obtain, but that rather you are now to be enrolled as a regular

student at the University of Texas School of Medicine, Galveston, Texas."

This and That: Dr. Joseph J. Rhoads and the faculty and students of Bishop college are raising a $1,000 contribution for the Sweatt victory fund in Texas.

A second student has entered the University of Texas school of medicine, joining Herman Barnett. He is James Pendelton of Houston, Texas.

The Ohlahoma state NAACP held its annual conference in Muckogee, November 16-17.

Missouri: The Saline county branch was addressed by Bernard Brown, NAACP field secretary, on October 11. He spent three days with the branch and also gave a radio address over station KMMO of Marshall and addressed a class at Missouri Valley college of Marshall.

Take Out a Membership In the NAACP

Wide World

CADET DAVE CAMPBELL, JR., 23, *was named top cadet of the Naval Air Station's preflight graduation class at Pensacola, Fla., on October 21.*

DID YOU KNOW —

That Bailey's definition of "mulatto" is "one born of Parents, of whom one is a Moor, and the other of another nation"?

★ ★ ★

That many Latin-American etymologists deny that "mulatto" comes from the Spanish *mulato,* little mule?

Dr. Fernando Ortiz believes it to be derived from the Mandinga word *malata,* light; not dark. Most of the early African slaves among the Spaniards came from these people and it was quite natural that the word should have gone into the Spanish language. Vicente Rossi claims the word is from the Arabic *muladi,* not a pure Arab.

Roland Mitchell

THE KAPPA ALPHA PSI *is another addition to the roster of NAACP life members. Ernest Wilkins (left), national president of the fraternity, receives a life membership certificate on behalf of KAP from Dr. Channing Tobias, NAACP board member. Mr. Wilkins presented Dr. Tobias with a $500 check, the membership fee.*

College and School News

The COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL ARTS has received a research grant of $2,600 in science from the board of directors of the Research Corporation for a research project under the direction of Dr. Oscar Woolfolk, chairman of the department of chemistry. Mrs. Phyllis Moehrle, of the industrial relations division of the National Association of Manufacturers recently addressed CE & IA students on the color line in employment. She said that manufacturers realized that it was indefensible to draw the color line in hiring.

Colonel Marcus H. Ray is the newly appointed professor of military science and tactics at the college. He succeeds Lt. Col. James Nichols, who has returned to active duty.

■

The new WHEATLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL of Houston, Texas, was dedicated on October 15. Erected at a cost of $2,500,000, this school is one of the finest secondary schools in the South.

■

A period of meditation in tribute to Mrs. Ethel Clark McAllister was held at DILLARD UNIVERSITY on October 4. Mrs. McAllister was secretary to President A. W. Dent until her untimely death on Sept. 30.

■

Dr. Richard Carroll, teacher of English and literature at the CHEYNEY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, addressed the meeting of the Eng-

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or The Registrar

lish section of the Association of State Teachers Colleges of New Jersey on October 13 at the State Teachers College at Trenton. His subject was "The Negro Author and American Literature."

■

Recent court decisions and rulings of attorney-generals favoring the admittance of Negro applicants to the graduate schools of the heretofore exclusively white state-supported universities of the South came under discussion at the conference of presidents of NEGRO LAND GRANT COLLEGES held in Washington October 17-19. Among the speakers were Dr. Will Alexander, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Oscar Ewing, federal security administrator; Julius Thomas, industrial relations director of the Urban League; and Dr. Ambrose Caliver, assistant commissioner U.S. Office of Education.

■

Otto McLarrin has been appointed acting director of public relations at HOWARD UNIVERSITY, with the reorganization of major administrative offices. Howard trustees voted more than two years ago to reduce the number of major administrative officers, reporting directly to the president, from 20 to 6, providing thereby for three new major administrative positions — a dean of the university, a business manager, and a director of public relations.

Mr. McLarrin has had wide experience in commercial art and journalism for the past seventeen years. He has served as editor-in-chief of *Newspic Magazine* and as assistant editor of the Consumer Union publications.

Anthony Andrews, of the faculty of the trade and technical division of WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE, has been elected to membership in the West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers, an affiliate of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Annual scholarship convocation of the college was held on October 15, with President Florence Read of Spelman as speaker. James Kelly, Jr., college dean, is now president of the West Virginia Philosophical Society, an organization composed of professors of philosophy in the colleges and universities of West Virginia.

■

The Rev. S. Marion Weeks, director of religious life at CLARK COLLEGE, is included in the forthcoming edition of *Who's Who in America.* Rev. Weeks, who has been on the staff since 1949, is a graduate of Clark and holds a B.D. degree from Gammon theological seminary and Boston university.

■

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE has initiated a series of panel discussions on current events and present-day world problems. Dr. Robert H. Brisbane, professor of political science, opened the series with a discussion of Korean history. Prof. Charles Morton, of the department of Philosophy, explained events in Korea between 1945-1950.

■

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liam Beittel, assistant in the comptroller's office; Fannie Blanton, head resident of Foster hall; Dr. John R. Bross, professor of psychology; Katheryn Emanuel, assistant professor of chemistry; Virginia Goodson, instructor in elementary education; and Darleen Plummer, assistant dietitian.

Dr. Buell Gallagher, former president of Talladega and now special consultant to the commissioner in the Office of Education, was founders' day speaker at the college on November 5. Dr. Gallagher, the sixth president of the college, served from 1933 to 1943.

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The social science laboratory of TOUGALOO COLLEGE has set up an educational service center for Negro teachers in the state of Mississippi.

■

The founder's day address at BENNETT COLLEGE was delivered by Dr. Charles H. Thompson, dean of the graduate school at Howard. Dr. Thompson's address climaxed the five-day celebration of Bennett's 25th anniversary as a college for women.

Among recent speakers at the college have been Mereb Mossman, professor at the women's college of the University of North Carolina, who spoke in annual observance of Annie Merner Pfeiffer day; Dr. Herbert Burgstahler, chancellor of Ohio Wesleyan University; Dr. Frederick Patterson, president of Tuskegee; and Mrs. Marianne Pollak of Vienna, Austria, editor of *Die Frau*.

■

Mrs. Philip C. Jessup, wife of the U. S. ambassador at large, was a recent visitor at FISK UNIVERSITY. A member of the Fisk board of trustees, Mrs. Jessup had never visited the campus before.

Two hundred people were present at the annual banquet of the Nashville Fisk Club, with coach "Bus" Thompson, the football squad, and prominent Fisk athletes of the past at guests.

The executive committee of the Fisk University General Alumni Association has completed plans to close the alumni campaign to raise $30,000 for equipment for the new university gymnasium. The committee also voted to recommend to the Alumni Association that several

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thousand dollars loaned the university be turned over to the university as a gift.

Two Fisk students, Mattie Hatcher and Henry Stephens, have received scholarships for the coming school year. Miss Hatcher, a sophomore voice student from Goldsboro, N. C., was winner of a two-year scholarship in the Omega Psi Phi talent hunt. Stephens, a freshman, won out in a writing competition conducted among the public-school students in El Paso, Texas. The contest was sponsored by the El Paso chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters and Stephens was the only Negro among the seven finalists.

Camilla Williams, first Negro prima donna to appear regularly with a major opera company, opened the fourth annual Fisk University concert series.

■

Jasper W. Patton, Jr., instructor of piano at TENNESSEE A & I STATE COLLEGE, played a return engagement at the Minneapolis College of Music on October 31. Mr. Patton had previously appeared at the college in November, 1949.

The college opened in the fall with a record enrollment of 2,000 students, and 23 additions to the faculty.

In October the college joined in the "crusade for freedom," with an address by Governor Gordon Browning of the state of Tennessee. More than 2,000 signatures, accompanied by cash contributions, were placed on the freedom scrolls.

Lela Gracey and Frances Polk entered the college last fall as recipients of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority scholarship award of $100

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from the Alpha Delta Omega chapter.

■

The One World Ensemble, an interracial, inter-cultural, and interfaith vocal group, was presented in SHAW UNIVERSITY'S fourth annual community concert on November 10 at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.

John J. Williams, a senior from Newark, N. J., has been installed as president of the Shaw student body for the year 1950-51. Other student-council officers are Frank Phillips, a junior, Pittsburgh, Pa., vice-president; Dorothy Haith, junior, Reidsville, secretary; Katie Leaks, senior, Louisburg, assistant secretary; Willa Price, senior, Burlington, corresponding secretary; and J. Clifton Best, senior, Florence, S. C., treasurer.

■

TWO KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE graduates have recently received Ph.D. degrees. Randa Russell of Louisville, Ky., class of '41, earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Dr. Russell is now professor of physical education at Virginia state. Sadie Yancey of Lexington, Ky., was awarded her Ph.D. from Cornell university. Dr. Yancey, who graduated with highest honors from Kentucky state in '35, is now employed at Florida A & M college at dean of women and professor of psychology.

These two women are the first graduates of the college department to earn Ph.D. degrees, but Langston Bates, a normal graduate of the college, received his Ph.D. at the age of twenty-five from the University of Chicago.

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The LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) fall lecture-recital series opened on November 3 with presentation of Helen Phillips, well-known dramatic soprano of St. Louis. Cecil Brown, distinguished Mutual Broadcasting System commentator, discussed "Crossfire in Asia" under the auspices of the Committee on Public Relations.

■

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, MOREHOUSE COLLEGE president, recently released his new book *A Gospel for the Social Awakening* (Haddam House). The book is a selection from the writings of Walter Rausenbusch compiled by Dr. Mays, with an introduction by C. Howard Hopkins. This is Dr. Mays' fourth published book, the others being *The Negro Church, The Negro's God,* and *Seeking to Be Christian in Race Relations.*

■

According to registrar John P. Whittaker, the graduate enrollment at ATLANTA UNIVERSITY has nearly reached the 400 mark. The largest enrollment continues to be in the school of education, with 152 students; social work is second, with 106 students; 75 are in the arts and sciences; 23 in library service; and 13 in business administration.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk, was the seventh annual charter-day speaker at the university. Charter-day observances were climaxed by a banquet in the university dormitories.

The division of social science has announced the following lecturers in the foundation of social science series which was initiated in 1944 for

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the purpose of bringing students into actual contact with distinguished educators in the field: Dr. Everett Hughes, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, whose topic will be "Race and Work"; Dr. Homer Hitt, head of the departments of sociology and rural sociology at Louisiana state university, "A Population Policy for the South"; Dr. Merle Curti, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, "Foreign Images of the Dr. Paul Leser, of the faculty of Black Mountain college, "Child Bearing Among Non-Literate Peoples"; and Dr. Joseph Turner, professor of political science, Grinnell college, "Soviet Imperialism and the United States."

■

A new course in race relation, designed to acquaint school teachers with the latest methods developed by social scientists in the fight against racial and religious prejudice, is now being taught at LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY (N. Y.).

■

Formal opening convocation of WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY was observed on November 3, with Hon. Thomas A. Burke, mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, heading the list of prominent visitors.

■

Inaugural ceremonies for Dr. Oscar J. Chapman, the fifth president of DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE, were held on November 4, President Chapman became head of Delaware state in May, 1950, having previously served as a professor of education at Morgan state. Dr. Chapman, a native of Stockton, Md., at-

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tended Lincoln university (Pa.), the University of Michigan, and Ohio state university, receiving the A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees respectively.

■

The twenty-eighth annual session of the CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS of Negro Land Grant Colleges, meeting in Washington, D. C., was presented with a five-point educational program by Dr. James M. Nabrit, secretary of Howard university.

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Book Reviews

HARLEM HOSPITALER

***Road Without Turning.* The Story of Reverend James H. Robinson. An Autobiography. New York: Farrar, Straus & Co., 1950, Pp. 312. $3.00.**

Because of racial discrimination in the United States Negroes form a rather neurotic group. Thus when a Negro surmounts the corroded environment in which he is born, manages to attain a degree of normalcy, and turns his life into one of significant influence for the betterment of mankind it is worth writing about. And so this autobiography of James H. Robinson is a noteworthy contribution to the social literature of our time and ought to have as wide distribution as possible.

Born in the "Bottoms" of the southern city of Knoxville, Tennessee, hungry, ragged, and reared in the filth and slime of this disease-ridden section, as a child the author knew poverty as only a poor, southern Negro boy can know it. This youngster tasted race prejudice as soon as he reached the stage of awareness. He was cursed, defamed, humiliated, and beaten by gangs of white youths. This sort of social environment seared his soul. Being intelligent, however, he became shrewd, joined a gang of young Negroes and lived by his wits. During the First World War, he and his parents joined the black migration North and arrived in Cleveland, Ohio, thinking he had come to the "promised land." But he soon found that a black skin was just as unwelcome above the Mason and Dixon line as below. He experienced untold hardships in this city while fighting his family and his social milieu to acquire a modicum of education. He learned what it means to be black, to be arrested merely for being a Negro; he found out what it means to be deprived of even "Negro jobs" in times of depression. He witnessed sex in its sordid aspects, saw the damning effects of venereal disease undermine and kill off relatives too ignorant to know of its serious consequences, and saw his father die while spurning, out of ignorance and fear, medical care in which he did not believe. Up to this point, his was a life that is common today to almost any Negro child living in the black ghetto of an American city.

But along the way he did encounter rare kindness and he had a will to secure an education; these things sustained him. Although the emotional religion of the sanctified variety filled his home from infancy, he wanted none of it and determined to become a minister in the true sense of the term. Thus with a dozen dollars in his pockets he set out for college, went through the usual struggles of poor colored boys working their way through, finished at the head of his class, and desired further study. But at Union Theological Seminary in New York City he found that racial prejudice was just as strong and nasty among those training for Christian leadership as

among other white Americans. Here he discovered what real loneliness can do to one, but the decency of some of his professors, the friendship of one or two white fellow students, and his close association with a Japanese student were factors in helping him retain his sanity.

What James H. Robinson has done since founding the interracial Presbyterian Church of the Master in the very heart of New York City's Harlem has become widely known. His is a life that is duplicated continually by thousands of young Negroes living in the teeming tenements that are a part of Harlem. Thus he has provided the type of leadership that could come only from such a person, and what he has accomplished in combatting juvenile delinquency, fighting educational segregation, improving health and hospital facilities, and spreading religion in a real and practical way is told in *Road Without Turning*. Any individual who can be considered a friend and confidante of pimps and prostitutes, of gangsters and hoodlums, as well as those on the other side of society, is indeed worth knowing about. Reverend James H. Robinson is the type of minister one only hears about in fiction or sees dramatized in the movies; his is a ministership that gives rather than takes (and taking is quite characteristic of the ministry today and thus has undermined the confidence of the intelligent individual in their leadership). All his adult life he has fought to eliminate discrimination and segregation; his life story is full of pathos and pity, crudeness and cruelty, despair and defeat, death and destruction, and all because of the blind stupidity of racial prejudice. Yet, in spite of the marks this has left, his greatness is revealed when today, at middle age, he can still say: "The cruel and shameful patterns of prejudice will hound me to my grave, and I will always show the scars of the conflict to overcome it. But I nevertheless press on without fear. For although I cannot realize the dream fully for myself, my life has a meaning for all my fellow men, and I see all my suffering as but a prelude to the triumphant future."

HUGH H. SMYTHE

DR. HUGH H. SMYTHE *is a regular reviewer for The Crisis.*

***Science Is a Sacred Cow.* By Anthony Standen. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., 1950. 221 pp. $2.75.**

The astronomer can tell you the exact position of Saturn at midnight on any day in the year, yet this same scientist, perhaps, cannot tell you the whereabouts of his own daughter at the same hour. This apologue aptly points up the distinction which Mr. Standen makes between the natural sciences like physics and chemistry and such pseudosciences as psychology and sociology. He thinks scientists collectively take themselves too seriously and that many of their "scientific" ukases are hardly distinguishible from shamanism. He directs most of his brickbats at the teachers of science and those reporters on the social animal known to us as psychologists and social scientists.

AMAZING MR. TAFT

(*Continued from page* 691)

hailed the plank as "unequivocal and excellent."

The plank had been written into the platform after representations had been made to the resolutions committee by the NAACP, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and other civic and labor organizations. There was at the time a bill pending before the Senate Labor and

Education Committee, of which Mr. Taft was a member, to establish a permanent FEPC with enforcement powers. On September 30, 1944, three months after the Republican National Convention, the committee favorably reported this bill out with the concurrence of Mr. Taft. Throughout the campaign Republican speakers stressed this FEPC plank. Governor Thomas E. Dewey, the party's presidential candidate, asserted in Buffalo on November 1, 1944: "We shall establish the Fair Employment Practice Committee as a permanent agency with full legal authority." Following his defeat, Gov. Dewey pushed such a bill, with enforcement powers, through the New York State Legislature.

When a delegation of twenty Negro leaders from Ohio called upon Senator Taft on February 2, 1945, to solicit his active support for the pending FEPC bill, he bluntly informed them that he was opposed to such a measure with punitive powers. He indignantly denounced those who cited the Republican campaign pledge, denying that the platform statement endorsed enforcement powers and accusing those who insisted that it did of "misrepresentation." Reminded that he had supported the pending bill prior to the election, Mr. Taft angrily answered: "Last fall they reported out a bill like this one. I argued against reporting out. We did report it out, but with the understanding that it would not be acted upon in the Senate, but would come back to the committee for amendments." He further told the delegation: "I do not consider the Republican platform calls for this type of bill. I am not in favor of this bill. I do not believe in a compulsory bill."

The Negro delegation left the conference bitterly disillusioned. Dismayed by this rebuff, William O. Walker, a stalwart Republican leader and editor of the influential Cleveland *Call and Post,* expressed his alarm and resentment in an editorial column:

> Whether he [Taft] knows it or not, his present action is doing more to drive hundreds of thousands of Negro votes away from the Republican party than anything the New Deal has ever done. . . . He is sowing seeds of resentment among the most solid voters the party has. . . . Mr. Taft mustn't forget that, rightly or wrongly, he has become the symbol of the Republican party. Everything he does reflects favorably or unfavorably upon the party. The present controversy over FEPC is no exception. The Negro voters are putting the blame on the Republican party.

Not only were the members of the delegation aggrieved by what Taft told them but also by the inhospitable manner in which they were received. The Senator kept the delegation standing throughout the 90-minute conference, pounded his desk, "pointed his finger in anger" and showed the Negro leaders "no courtesies whatever," Mr. Walker reported.

The Ohio Senator, however, held his educational FEPC bill in abeyance and faithfully voted for cloture on motions to take up the compulsory bill on May 19 and July 12, 1950. Previously he had voted to sustain the pivotal Barkley cloture ruling which would have made it easier to stop filibusters.

Despite the failure and consequent

abandonment of a voluntary FEPC in the City of Cleveland, Senator Taft persists in believing "that progress against discrimination in employment must be made and can best be made by voluntary cooperation and education with constant pressure from the government."

Although the facts of discrimination are widely known and have been repeatedly investigated, the Ohio Senator urges the establishment of a "commission to go into every community and make a comprehensive study of the employment conditions and discriminations, the number of jobs available to colored people, and the kinds of jobs."

AMERICAN WAY

In a radio debate with Representative T. V. Smith on February 2, 1939, Mr. Taft said:

> The basis of the American way of life has been equal opportunity to improve one's condition by one's own effort . . . the American way of life is not synonymous with its governmental or constitutional system, but unquestionably, the government and Constitution have protected the conditions which make it possible.

This precisely is what Negro citizens ask for: equality of opportunity to improve their own conditions protected by the authority of the government and the Constitution. For them, however, Senator Taft counsels the slow processes of education.

"The Taft-Hartley labor law opens many new opportunities to colored workers by forcing unions to admit them to membership," the Senator said in his campaign literature. However, when the bill was up for debate on the Senate floor, Mr. Taft arose on April 29, 1947 to say: "Let us take the case of unions which prohibit admission of Negroes to membership. If they prohibit the admission of Negroes to membership, they may continue to do so."

Analyzing the impact of the Taft-Hartley Act, Clarence Mitchell, NAACP labor secretary, wrote in *The Crisis* of October, 1948:

> There is no instance in which a single colored person has been able to keep or get a job because of the Taft-Hartley Act. On the other hand, numerous instances have arisen in which unions which exclude colored people have won bargaining rights.

The Taft record is voluminous but undistinguished. It reveals a politician neither more nor less honest and intelligent than the average of his Senate colleagues. Nothing in it warrants his exalted reputation for superior intellect and integrity. While the Ohio Senator lacks the oleaginous manner, is prone to intemperate bluntness, and has demonstrated unusual industry in the mastery of the details of pending legislation, he is otherwise undistinguished from the general run of politicians.

William Green, the president of the American Federation of Labor, compares him with Virginia's Senator Harry F. Byrd, whom no one, except the Dixiecrats, acclaims as a paragon of political honesty and intelligence. "They look alike, they talk alike, and they vote alike," Green charged in an address in New York on June 15, 1950.

It is as difficult to tell just where Mr. Taft stands on the Dixiecrats as on other current issues. On December 16, 1946, he assured the Atlanta Rotary Club that the South could

(*Continued on page* 745)

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many lawyers known to us is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorney outside their home towns. The Crisis maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizen rights.

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AMAZING MR. TAFT

(*Continued from page* 743)

"count on the goodwill of the Republican party." He went on to say: "I can't see what the South has to fear from the Republican program. The Republicans like the people of the South."

Encouraged by the Dixiecrat revolt in 1948, the G.O.P. high command chose Senator Taft as the most acceptable Republican to go on a barnstorming tour of the South in the hope of picking up some electoral college votes in that region. The Senator toured Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida and Texas. He told his audiences that on the "principles of liberty and justice and equality . . . there is basic agreement between the southern Democrats and the Republican party." Inviting the southerners into the ranks of the party, he urged them to vote for Republican candidates.

Two years later, speaking to a Negro group in Dayton, Ohio, he delivered what the Cleveland *Call and Post* characterized as "a scathing denunciation of the Dixiecrats," charging that they "can be effective only as Democrats."

On the basis of this record of uncertainties, contradictions and deceptions, Robert Alphonso Taft has attained a truly amazing reputation as a sincere and Olympian statesman of singular integrity and intelligence.

THE CRISIS

VOLUME 57 1950

ARTICLES

American Negro in College, The..... 488
Caplan, Marvin: Arlington Arguments.. 422
Cerminara, Gina: Little Black Angels... 221
Coan, Otis W.: What One Visitor Discovered in the South..... 73
Cohen, George H.: Legal Action for Civil Rights 570
Current, Gloster B.: Exit Jim Crow Schools in E. St. Louis..... 209
Current, Gloster B.: The 41st—A Convention of Great Decision..... 512
Delpech, Jeanine: An Interview with Native Son 625
Eaton, Joseph W.: A California Triviality 294
Elimination of Discrimination in Employment 355
Fisk University Dedicates Alfred Stieglitz Collection 157
Greenwood, Phillip: How History Was Made in the State of N. J..... 277
Hastie, William H.: Charles Hamilton Houston (1895-1950) 364
Heald, Weldon F.: Black Pathfinder of the Deserts 703
Henegan, Herbert L.: Teamwork in Texas Pays Off 160
Hicks, John H.: St. Louis: Is It the Toughest Town for Negro Baseball Players? 573
India After Gandhi: A Survey..... 151
Ivey, John E., Jr.: Facts About Regional Education 628
Ivy, James W.: American Negro Problem in the European Press..... 413
Ivy, James W.: The Sullivan Literary Hoax 146
Johnston, Ralph A.: A Progress Report. 84
Jones, Donald: No Jim Crow at Randolph 616
Kerin, Edna B.: Separate Is Not Equal 288
Lennard, Henry L.: The Immigrant and the Negro 430
Love, Mabel: A Wake Up Service..... 284
Marlowe, Dave.: The Lost Tribes..... 433
Mather, Melissa: Incident at Oberlin.... 712
Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth..... 508
Moon, Henry Lee: Anatomy of Political Decadence 300
Moon, Henry Lee: The Amazing Mr. Taft 685
NAACP Legislative Scoreboard 81st Congress, Second Session..... 549
Neal, Minor: Paradise Down South..... 231
Owens, Isis V.: And Forbid Them Not.. 78
Padmore, George: The Bataka Movement in Uganda..... 15
Pickens, William: Negro Lodges Buy U.S. Bonds 370
Plaut, Richard L.: A Second Front in the Fight on Segregated Education... 21
Post, Walter W.: An Appeal for a Non-Partisan NAACP 345
Reddick, L. D.: The Lynching of Pickie Pie 141
Reid, Ira De A.: The Negro Private College 481
Roye, Wendell J.: Home Hunting in Syracuse 693
Saunders, Scott J.: I Worked for a Negro Newspaper 4
Scott, Michael: South Africa and South West Africa 88
Scott, William V. F.: Eliminate the "Stokes Willies" 9
Shakespeare Play Barred in Southern College 228
Southern College Teachers Repudiate Jim Crow Education..... 25
Spingarn, Arthur B.: Books by Negro Authors, 1949 96
White, Park Jerauld: Jim Crow's Last Stand 349
White, Walter: The Negro and the Communists 502
World's Worst Speech on FEPC..... 354
Zimmerman, Jesse: A Secretary of Peace 214

EDITORIALS

A New Year Must..... 34
Armed Services Integration..... 443
Army Brass and the 24th Regiment.... 578

Baptist Condemn Segregation..... 510
"Bojangles" Robinson 35
Democrats Fail on FEPC..... 374
Edwin R. Embree..... 171
Exit ABC Jim Crow..... 375
FHA Loan Restrictions..... 34
Integration in Education..... 646
Korean War 511
Krock's Racial Crockery..... 170
Metropolitan Eats Crow..... 579
Mixed Schools 510
Nobel Laureate 578
Push FEPC 238
Race Tag Removed from Blood..... 714
Republican "Principles" 238
Segregation Blunted 647
Sereste Khama 239
Seven Out of Ten..... 35
Smearing Negro GIs in Korea 715
Supreme Court Rulings..... 442
The Army Stumbles On..... 101
The Civil Rights Mobilization..... 100
The Elections 714
The FEPC Fight..... 170

BOOK REVIEWS

American Peoples Encyclopedia, The.... 262
Azevedo, Fernando de: Brazilian Culture 673
Brown, Ina Corrine: Race Relations in a Democracy..... 104
Chukwuemeka, Nwanko: African Dependencies 319
Count, Earl W. (Editor): This Is Race 378
Davie, Maurice R.: Negroes in American Society 103
Felton, Ralph A.: These My Brethren... 465
Flavin, Martin: Black and White..... 672
Foner, Philip S.: The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass..... 670
Guttmacher, Dr. Alan F.: Having a Baby 674
Guyon, René: Sexual Freedom..... 264
Hillman, Arthur: Community Organization and Planning..... 318
Hughes, Langston: Simple Speaks His Mind 377
Hunnicut, Benjamin H.: Brazil: World Frontier 263
Huszar, George de: Equality in America 104
Lederer, William J.: All the Ship's at Sea 376
Mead, Margaret: Male and Female..... 264
Montgomery, James Stuart: The Incredible Casanova 464
Ortega y Gasset, Jose: The Revolt of the Masses 465
Redding, J. Saunders: Stranger and Alone 317
Robinson, James H.: Road Without Turning 740
Rose, Arnold M.: The Negro's Morale.. 30
Smith, Lillian: Killers of the Dream... 29
Standen, Anthony: Science Is a Sacred Cow 741
Turner, Lorenzo Dow: Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect..... 263

COVERS

January: by Mrs. Guy Emerson
February: Norma Jean Mitchell
March: Pearl Bailey
April: Senator Jane Vialle
May: Phillippa Schuyler
June: Katherine Dunham
July: Thelma Porter
August-Sept.: Florence Saunders
October: Zelma George
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36-46; 106-11; 172-181; 240-252; 310-316; 379-391; 444-453; 517-522; 584-594; 648-657; 716-728.

GOOD NEWS

28, 102, 169, 235, 295, 360, 428, 581, 635, 700.

YOUR DOLLAR'S WORTH

48, 114; 303-04; 367-68; 438-39; 637-38; 710-11.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS

51-59; 117-120; 182-187; 253-261; 322-331; 392-401; 454-463; 526-536; 596-606; 660-669; 730-739.

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